

VOTES FOR WOMEN.

EDITED BY FREDERICK & EMMELINE PETHICK LAWRENCE.

VOL. II., No. 53.

FRIDAY, MARCH 12, 1909.

Price 1d. Weekly. (Post Free 2d.)



THE PUPPET SHOW.

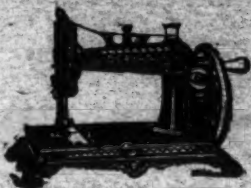
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Articles and news contributed for insertion in "Votes for Women" should be sent to the Editors at the earliest possible date, and in no case later than first post Monday morning prior to the publication of the paper.

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The paper can be obtained from all newsagents and bookstalls.

For quotations for advertisements, apply to the Advertisement Manager, "Votes for Women," 4, Clements Inn, Strand, W.C.

DEDICATION.

To the brave women who to-day are fighting for freedom: to the noble women who all down the ages kept the flag flying and looked forward to this day without seeing it: to all women all over the world, of whatever race, or creed, or calling, whether they be with us or against us in this fight, we dedicate this paper.

Readers of VOTES FOR WOMEN are reminded that the current week is VOTES FOR WOMEN Week, when a special effort is being made to increase the circulation of the paper. Their co-operation is specially invited in introducing the paper to new readers, and in taking part in any other schemes of propaganda for making the paper known. Will those who have not already ordered additional copies, but are intending to do so, be kind enough to give their instructions at once in order that the correct number may be available.

THE OUTLOOK.

The women who were sent to prison for the part they played in connection with the deputation to Mr. Asquith on February 24, have now entered upon the third week of their incarceration at Holloway, where they are confined as ordinary second-class prisoners, wearing the prison dress and debarred from intercourse with the outside world.

Determined Resistance.

A few special permits, however, have been obtained from Mr. Gladstone during the week, and we are glad to learn

that the prisoners are cheerfully facing their sentence, and are one and all determined to go through with it to the end.

Mrs. Pethick Lawrence, Lady Constance Lytton, and Miss Lawless are in the Infirmary, and the other members of the Women's Social and Political Union are in the ordinary prison.

The Release of the Prisoners.

With the exception of Mrs. Lawrence and Miss Gye, all the W.S.P.U. prisoners will be released on Wednesday morning, March 24. Arrangements have been made to give them a hearty welcome at the prison gates and to conduct them to Clements Inn with a procession and music. In the evening a complimentary dinner is being given to them in the Inns of Court Hotel, particulars of which will be found on the next page. It is anticipated that each of the released prisoners will give a short speech.

Reducing the Liberal Majority.

During last week the result was declared in the remaining Scottish bye-elections. In Edinburgh the Liberal majority was reduced by 1,739 votes, in Hawick Burghs by 161. In this reduction the Women's Social and Political Union played a conspicuous part. The meeting at which Mrs. Pankhurst spoke in the Synod Hall on the eve of the poll in Edinburgh proved to be a tremendous success, the great hall being filled, and enthusiasm such as is rarely seen in Scotland being evoked.

At Cabinet Ministers' Meetings.

Cabinet Ministers have not been allowed to forget the women's agitation during the week. Though Mr. Asquith excluded all women from his meeting at the Queen's Hall on Tuesday he was heckled by various men who drew his attention to "Votes for Women." They were one and all ejected with violence. Mr. Birrell was confronted by women on several occasions during his visit to Bristol.

A Trick Exposed.

On Friday, in next week, Mr. Geoffrey Howard introduces into the House of Commons his Bill for Franchise Reform. As we have pointed out before in these columns this Bill, although incidentally it would enfranchise women, is not the Bill which is supported by any of the Woman Suffrage Societies. On the contrary, it is recognised that Mr. Geoffrey Howard's action in confusing the issue is directly hostile to the interests of women. Members of the Women's Social and Political Union regard it as a trick dictated by Mr. Asquith, with a view to postpone indefinitely the question of Woman Suffrage. This trick is defeated by detection. Our cartoon on the front page of the present issue, once again kindly drawn for us by Mr. Pearse, illustrates the refusal of women to accept this pretended franchise. Miss Christabel Pankhurst deals with the subject in her leading article on page 428.

Special Features.

Among the special features of the current issue is the article by Mrs. Pethick Lawrence on "Why I am in Prison," which she wrote for us when she realised that the course of action she was pursuing would be likely to end in her imprisonment. Miss Evelyn Sharp writes an interesting article on the W.S.P.U. Shop which has been opened in Kensington. Mr. Pethick Lawrence writes a further chapter of the "Elements of the Suffrage Demand." We also call attention to the account of the special deputation to Mr. Runciman. Miss Sylvia Pankhurst's article on the history of the suffrage is held over for a few weeks. For our next week's issue we are able to promise a special article by Miss Elizabeth Robins, and also a further letter by Mrs. Pethick Lawrence.

ELEMENTS OF THE WOMAN SUFFRAGE DEMAND.

By F. W. Pethick Lawrence.—Chapter II.—Women and the Administration.

In the last chapter the question of the inferior position of women under the laws of the country was dealt with, but another matter equally important is the position of inferiority which women hold where the administration of the country is concerned. This also is due to their voteless position at the present time.

Many centuries ago the Sovereign and his Ministers carried on the administration of the country without consulting the people, but gradually, during the reign of the Stuarts, Parliament, the representative of the people, wrung from reluctant Kings the right to control the administration. To-day the Prime Minister, though nominally chosen by the King, is practically the choice of the people, and the members of the Government are selected from the party which have been returned to power by the popular will. Further than this, the Ministry are subject to the control of the House of Commons.

Accordingly, as women have no part in electing Members of Parliament, so they have no part in controlling the administration of the country, and it will be found in consequence that in this matter, quite as much as in the laws of the land, they are placed at a considerable disadvantage compared with the men. Almost all the more lucrative posts which are controlled by the Government are reserved exclusively for men, and in those cases where both men and women are eligible, the men receive a very much higher salary for the same services. Curiously enough, the very highest post in the whole country, that of the Sovereign of the realm, may be held either by a man or a woman, a relic of the time when women's constitutional rights were greater than they are to-day. But with this exception all the greatest positions are the exclusive prerogative of the male sex. Though such a woman as Queen Victoria, who did not rise to her position owing to her exceptional ability, but owing to the accident of birth, did actually exercise kingly functions, and played a very real part in the government of the country, yet in every other position of governmental power it is assumed that men only are to be selected. This rule applies right through the various grades of official positions, from that of Viceroy to those of the clerks in Somerset House, and, with few exceptions, it is only when we come to the bottom rungs of the ladder that women have been admitted as employees at all.

The most prominent exceptions are those of Inspectors of Schools and Inspectors of Factories. With regard to the Inspectors of Schools, though there are far more women teachers than men teachers, and more girl scholars than boy scholars, we find that in the ranks of the inspectors of elementary schools there are 244 men and only about 18 women. The salary of the head inspector is £1,000 a year, while that of the chief woman inspector is only £500. In the secondary schools the same proportion holds good—where there are about 30 men inspectors there are only 3 women inspectors, and where the salaries of the former range from £400 to £800 per annum, those of the latter are only £300 per annum; moreover, the women only hold their posts for five years; yet the work done in the two cases is almost identical.

School teachers themselves are not in the direct employ of the Government, but of the County Councils. Nevertheless, the Board of Education has a very large amount of control in the matter of their appointment, and we find that the salaries of women teachers are roughly about two-thirds of those of the men teachers, in spite of the fact that they are given control of as large classes as the men, and that they have equal qualifications.

In the case of factory inspectors the same considerations apply—the salaries of the male inspectors range up to £1,200 per annum, while the maximum for the women does not exceed £500. Here again, in spite of the fact that there are millions of women employed in factories, while there are 900 men inspectors, there are less than a score of women.

In the Post Office.

Among the less lucrative employments under Government must be reckoned the Post Office, and here a large number of women are employed. But though men and women are selected for the same work, the salaries of the men are very much higher than those of the women, as the figures given for the

central office for the following classes of employees amply illustrate:—

For sorters the lowest salary of men is 20s. per week, rising by annual increases of 2s. 4d. per week to 62s.; for women, on the other hand, the salary commences at 14s., and rises, by an increment of 1s. at first and 2s. later, to 36s. a week.

With telegraphists the men start at 18s. per week and rise to 65s., while the women start at 16s. and rise to 40s.

The maximum salaries of men and women second division clerks are £250 and £100 per annum respectively. The work is very similar, and in many cases women do the actual work formerly performed by men, and vice versa.

Perhaps the most striking illustration of the different way in which women are treated in the administration from men is the comparison between the wages of the men employees in Government factories and those of women. In the Woolwich Arsenal and other places where men are employed the Government have been forced to pay Trade Union rate of wages, but in the Army Clothing Works, where the direct or indirect employment of women is carried out, the Government rank among the worst of sweaters.

Loss to the Community.

It must not be supposed, however, that the only loss suffered through the administration being solely in the hands of men is that of the women who are either excluded from employment or paid an inferior salary. The exclusion of women, either in whole or in part, from the service of the State is in itself a serious thing for the community. The fact that there is not a proportionate number of women factory inspectors, of school inspectors, and of other officials means that the women's point of view is omitted in all these matters, and that the grievances that only women are likely to be able to remedy are omitted from consideration.

Take, for instance, the case of relieving officers. Boards of Guardians, which are responsible to men and women electors, have frequently desired to appoint women relieving officers, and it is evident to everyone who thinks about the question at all, and understands the delicate matters which arise between relieving officers and the poor of both sexes who have to be relieved, that women are badly needed for these positions. Yet the Board of Education has placed every obstacle in the way, and has insisted on confining the posts to men.

Again, the requirements of women prisoners evidently demand the services of a proportionately large staff of women prison inspectors, yet until the present franchise agitation there were no women prison inspectors at all, and even to-day there is only one for all the prisons throughout the whole country.

Then, again, women have to be tried in Courts of Law where the jury consists solely of men, who, even with the best intentions, frequently fail entirely to understand their position.

But apart altogether from the question of appointment of women to look after such matters as these, the exclusion of the women's point of view from the administrative departments implies serious loss. This is true in some measure of all the departments; three particular illustrations will suffice. The Local Government Board has to decide problems of housing and sanitation, of the up-bringing of children in the workhouse schools, and a number of other matters in which women ought to be consulted. The Home Office makes regulations for factories, laundries, and prisons, and for home work. It controls the metropolitan police, and in many ways comes into contact with the lives of men and women. The Board of Education is responsible for the curriculum of the girls as well as the boys, and thus the whole arrangement for the teaching of the young is ultimately under the control of men alone.

No wonder that women realise that in the field of administration their exclusion from the vote is fraught with the most serious consequences to the community.

A Correction.

In the article last week the age of consent was by mistake referred to as fourteen years. The correct figure should have been given as sixteen years, a figure to which the remarks in the text equally applied.

The facts as to intestacy apply to English and not to Scottish law. In Scotland the sexes are on an equal footing in this respect.

ANNOUNCEMENTS.

To-day begins VOTES FOR WOMEN week, when all readers and friends of the movement are invited to use their best endeavours to increase the circulation of the paper and to help its advertisement revenue. Mrs. Drummond in London and the local organisers in the various centres will be glad of all the assistance that can be rendered them to make this week a thorough success. The principal methods of helping the paper are: (1) Inducing friends to become regular subscribers—for this purpose special subscription forms can be obtained from Clements Inn. (2) Arranging with newsagents to stock the paper and guaranteeing them a sale for the first few weeks. (3) Taking part in some of the schemes of special advertisement. (4) Patronising the firms who advertise in the paper and drawing the attention of other advertisers to its columns.

At Homes.

A special invitation is given to those interested in "Votes for Women" to be present at the At Homes of the Union in London and throughout the country. The London At Home on Monday next at 3 p.m., at the Queen's Hall, will be specially devoted to a consideration of the Adult Suffrage Bill of Mr. Geoffrey Howard, which is not supported by the W.S.P.U. On Thursday evening there is a free meeting at the St. James's Hall, at 8 p.m., and particulars of the meetings throughout the country will be found elsewhere (pp. 432-434).

Meeting in March in the Queen's Hall.

Tickets are now on sale for the great meeting in the Queen's Hall on Tuesday evening, March 23, by which time the annual report will be in the hands of subscribers, and the total result of the Self-denial Week will be announced. Mrs. Pankhurst will be in the chair, and the other speakers will be Miss Christabel Pankhurst, Mr. Pethick Lawrence, and Miss Mary Gawthorpe. Tickets, price 2s., 1s., and 6d., can be obtained of the Ticket Secretary, N.W.S.P.U., 4, Clements Inn, W.C.

Release of Prisoners.

On the following morning, March 24, 26 out of the 28 women sentenced to prison last week will be released. Arrangements are being made for a special procession from the gates, and in place of the usual breakfast, a dinner will be given at the Inns of Court Hotel, at 7.30 p.m. Tickets for this dinner, 2s. 6d. each, are already on sale, and as the number of seats is limited application should be made at once. It is particularly requested that the colours of the Union should be worn both in the procession and in the evening at the dinner.

Dolls for the Exhibition.

Special attention is directed to the appeal in the page relating to the Exhibition for help in the doll show, which will form a leading part in the exhibits. The assistance of a large number of helpers is urgently required.

A Riding Corps.

A corps of mounted women is being formed in connection with the Women's Social and Political Union, and a special uniform is being arranged. Will any women who are willing to take part communicate with Mrs. Drummond.

Summer Holidays.

The Women's Social and Political Union have a special scheme for the summer holidays. It is proposed that all the holiday resorts should be covered during the summer months by an extensive campaign. All members of the Union are invited to take part in the proposal, further particulars of which will be given later.

PROGRAMME OF EVENTS.

March.			
Fri. 12	Chelsea Pal., Court Theatre, S. Kensington Station	Open-air Collections	11 a.m.—9 p.m.
	Aberdeen, Speakers' Class, 41½, Union Street	Miss Flatman	8 p.m.
	Crouch End, "Ye China Cup," Park Road	Mrs. Eates	8 p.m.
	Bristol, Assembly Rooms, Stokes Croft	Mrs. Baldock	8 p.m.
	Penzance, Central Hall	Miss Annie Kenney, Miss Elsie Howey	8 p.m.
	Plymouth, Treville St. Hall	Miss Brackenbury and others	8 p.m.
	Harrow and Wealdstone Parl.	Mrs. Mosen	8 p.m.
	Manchester, At Home, Onward Buildings	Miss Mary Gawthorpe, Miss Mary Phillips	8-10 p.m.
	Coventry, Factory Gate mtg.	Miss Gladice Keevil, Miss Bradburn	
	Manchester, Central Secondary School	Miss Williamson, B.A.	
	Leeds	Mrs. Clarke and others	
	Fulham, Business meeting of Putney & Fulham members		
Sat. 13	Glasgow, At Home, Charing Cross Hall	Miss Conolan	3 p.m.
	Southport, At Home, Temperance Institute	Mrs. Bouvier, Miss O'Sullivan	3-5 p.m.

Sat. 13	Leeds, Open-air meeting		3.30 p.m.
	Bradford, Open-air meeting		3.30 p.m.
	Rochdale, At Home, 84, York-shire Street		7.30 p.m.
	Redditch, Temperance Hall	Miss Gladice Keevil, Mrs. Ker-wood, Chair—Rev. A. E. Robson, M.A.	8 p.m.
	Kensington, Mall Hall	Miss Evelyn Sharp, Mr. O'Dell and others	8 p.m.
	Aldburgh, Drawing-room meeting, Dr. Garrett Anderson's		
	Liverpool and Rochdale	Suffragist Parades	
	Aberdeen, Open-air meeting	Miss Adela Pankhurst	
	Stonehaven, Open-air meeting	Miss Flatman	
	Leeds, Arts Club	Mrs. Clark	8 p.m.
Sun. 14	Hampstead Heath, "Jack Straw's Castle"	Mrs. Mosen, Miss Ayrton	11.30 a.m.
	Glasgow, L.L.P., Camlathie and Dennistoun Branches	Miss Conolan	2.15 p.m.
	South-West Manchester, S.D.P.	Miss Williamson	
Mon. 15	London, At Home, Queen's Hall	Mrs. Pankhurst, Miss Christabel Pankhurst	3-5 p.m.
	Bristol, At Home, Victoria Rooms	Miss Annie Kenney	3.30 p.m.
	Bradford, Somerset Parlour	Mrs. Clark	3.30 p.m.
	Liverpool, Jewish Zionist Hall	Miss Mary Gawthorpe	8 p.m.
	Ilford, 21, Coventry Road	Mrs. Sleight	8 p.m.
	Chelsea, 4, Trafalgar Studios	Miss Winifred Mayo	8.45 p.m.
	Beginners' Elocution Class		
	Highbridge, Open-air meeting, Clock Tower	Miss Vera Wentworth	
	Manchester, Onward Bldgs.	Mrs. Duncan's Lecture	
Tues. 16	Great Hall, Winchester House, E.C.	Miss Christabel Pankhurst, H. A. S. Foy, Esq.	3 p.m.
	Old Broad Street, E.C., Great Hall, Winchester House	Miss Christabel Pankhurst	3-5 p.m.
	Liverpool, At Home, 48, Mount Pleasant	Miss Mary Gawthorpe, Miss Mary Phillips	3-5 & 8-10 p.m.
	Cardiff, meeting for members only	Miss Annie Kenney	7.30 p.m.
	Coventry	Mrs. Pankhurst, Miss Gladice Keevil	8 p.m.
	London, Writers' Club House	Miss Christabel Pankhurst, Miss Beatrice Harraden	
	Dinner		
Wed. 17	Birmingham, Reception, Midland Hotel	Mrs. Pankhurst	3.30 p.m.
	Kensington, At Home	Kensington, W.S.P.U.	4-6 p.m.
	Rochdale, Members' meeting	Miss Florence Clarkson	7.30 p.m.
	Preston, 48, Glover's Court	Mrs. Bouvier, Miss Capper	7.30 p.m.
	Birmingham, Priory Rooms	Mrs. Pankhurst	7.30 p.m.
	Aberdeen, At Home, 41½, Union Street	Miss Adela Pankhurst, Miss Flatman	8 p.m.
	Wolverhampton, At Home, St. Peter's Institute	Mrs. Davis	8 p.m.
	Huddersfield, Parochial Hall	Mrs. Clarke	8 p.m.
	Leeds, Arts Club	Miss C. Marsh	8 p.m.
	Chelsea, 93, Oakley Street	Chelsea W.S.P.U.	8.30 p.m.
	West Norwood Progressive Association Debate	Miss S. Mills	8.30 p.m.
Thur. 18	Edinburgh, At Home, Society of Arts Hall, 117, George St.	Miss Macaulay	3.30 p.m.
	Palgnton, Masonic Hall		
	Malvern, Lyttleton Rooms	Miss Gladice Keevil, Mrs. Howey, Dr. Helena Jones	4-6 p.m.
	London, At Home, St. James' Hall, Great Portland Street	Miss Christabel Pankhurst and others	7.30 p.m.
	Glasgow, At Home, 141, Bath Street	Miss Conolan	8 p.m.
	Rochdale, Town Hall	Mrs. Pankhurst, Miss Mary Gawthorpe	8 p.m.
	Wood Green, Unity Hall	Bowes Park W.S.P.U.	
	Liverpool, Members' rally	Miss Mary Phillips	
	Edinburgh, Marshall St. Hall	Miss Macaulay	8 p.m.
Fri. 19	Liverpool, Sun Hall	Mrs. Pankhurst, Miss Mary Gawthorpe, Miss Mary Phillips	8 p.m.
	Bristol, Assembly Rooms, Stokes Croft	Miss Annie Kenney	8 p.m.
	Kensington, Public meeting, Ladbroke Hall, Notting Hill	Miss Christabel Pankhurst, Miss Garrett Anderson, M.D., Miss Joachim	8 p.m.
	Plymouth, Treville St. Hall	Miss Howey and others	8 p.m.
	London, British Women's Temperance Association	Miss Naylor	8 p.m.
	Manchester, At Home, Onward Buildings, Deansgate		8-10 p.m.
	Dover, Debate, The Junior Imperial Club	Miss Isabel Seymour	
Sat. 20	Glasgow, At Home, Charing Cross Hall	Miss Conolan	3 p.m.
	Southport, At Home	Mrs. Pankhurst, Miss Mary Gawthorpe	3 p.m.
	Leeds, Open-air meeting		3.30 p.m.
	Bradford, Open-air meeting	Miss Marsh	3.30 p.m.
	Manchester, Jewish Community	Miss Mary Gawthorpe	7.30 p.m.
	Preston, Members' Rally, 48, Glover's Court		

IMPORTANT FUTURE EVENTS.

March			
12-19	VOTES FOR WOMEN Week		
18-21	Lancashire		
23	London, Queen's Hall	Mrs. Pankhurst's Tour	
		Mrs. Pankhurst, Miss C. Pankhurst, Miss Mary Gawthorpe, F. W. Pethick Lawrence, Esq.	8 p.m.
24	Holloway	Release of Prisoners	8 a.m.
24	London, Inns of Court Hotel	Dinner to welcome released prisoners. Tickets 2s. 6d.	7.30 p.m.
24	Manchester, Free Trade Hall	Mrs. Pankhurst, Miss M. Gawthorpe	
25	Leeds, Coliseum	Miss Christabel Pankhurst	
26	Nottingham, Mechanics' Hall	Mrs. Pankhurst	8 p.m.
26	Croydon, Public Hall	F. W. Pethick Lawrence, Esq.	
30	London, Caxton Hall	Deputation to the House of Commons	3 p.m.
April 16	Release of Mrs. Pethick Lawrence		
29	London, Albert Hall	Mrs. Pethick Lawrence	
My13-26	Prince's Skating Rink	Exhibition and Sale of Work	

PAINTING KENSINGTON PURPLE, WHITE, AND GREEN

By EVELYN SHARP.

I suppose by the time one has finished one's journey through life all the ambitions of childhood will have been realised, except, perhaps, the more exalted ones, such as discovering a desert island or snatching somebody from the angry flames. And another one went by the board the other day when the Kensington W.S.P.U. was suddenly inspired to open shop at 143, Church Street. Nobody said so in committee, but I do not believe a single member of that serious and grown-up group of Kensington Suffragettes was above feeling a secret thrill of glee at the thought of keeping shop at last—real shop, with a counter, and a bell, and a cash-box, and a staircase leading up to a sort of Never-Never Land, where tea is made every day at five o'clock, and up which you can shout "Shop!" whenever you want to appear particularly professional. It is like raising a humdrum existence to the level of dreams. All the while, though, it is a real business-like shop, with two shop windows; and everything, wherever you look, is glowing in purple, white, and green.

In the nursery the shop always used to be a grocer's shop, no doubt because of the difficulty of looting any other sort of stock from the nursery cupboard. In our Kensington establish-

ment, with the exception of "Votes for Women" marmalade, tied up with tri-coloured ribbons, and selling faster than we can get it made, we do not stock groceries. Food for the mind is rather our aim, and the mind we try to catch is expected to feed just as hungrily on purple, white, and green "goods" as on pamphlets and books. That is why one of our windows is filled entirely with scarves, hatpins, badges, belts, and anything else we can show

in the fighting colours of the Union. It is a very attractive window, and it does not appeal exclusively to the feminine Suffragist. The other day it brought in a well-known man of letters to buy a tie; and he went away, saying he would wear it boldly whenever he was asked to speak on Woman Suffrage without being allowed to mention militant tactics. "The tie will speak for itself," said the member of committee who happened to be playing at shop that day. "It will," he agreed—rather fervently, I thought. But that may have been because the tie was oozing in every direction out of the paper in which it was supposed to be wrapped.

Part of the business of keeping a "Votes for Women" shop consists, of course, in persuading a coy public that we are not dangerous, and that it is quite safe to come inside. To this end we place enticing invitations in the window, printed in the colours. This, for instance, "Do you want to know the way to get a vote? Do you want an answer to the anti-Suffragist? Do you want to hear why we went to the House of Commons? Then come inside and ask!" Or this, "Are you a Suffragette? If not, why not?" Or this, "Do you want to back up the women in prison? Then spare a copper for our Self-denial Fund!" These have their effect. In ones and twos the public visit us, to offer their services, to buy, to ask for information. One day it is a shop assistant, offering to

come and "dress" the window for us before she goes to work in the morning. Another time it is a hard-worked dress-maker, asking how she can help after eight o'clock in the evening. We might never have come in touch with fine workers like these but for our purple, white, and green shop-front.

For the real effect of our shop is its moral effect. There it is, a tri-colour evidence to the hundreds of people who pass it every day that the "Votes for Women" movement is in their midst, whether they like it or not. And, of course, they do like it directly they come in contact with it. They stand round our windows, learning by heart all their contents. They watch our workers in their colours, passing in and out with papers to sell or bills to distribute. And they pay us the last compliment of recognition when they visit us as fellow shopmen. I think we never feel quite so much like real shopkeepers as when someone comes in and plunks down a sovereign, with a cursory "Can you kindly oblige Mr. So-and-So with change, miss?"

Only the ubiquitous small boy remains the natural enemy of all change and of all progress; and when there is snow on the ground he has an easy weapon to his hand that makes him really rather tiresome and the shop rather damp. If any argu-

ment were still wanting as to the need for the woman's vote, it is there in the presence of the small boy, who thinks it a permissible jest to be rude to women who are out fighting for their liberty. Still, when some of us surprised him by returning his snowballs with as good an aim as his own, he capitulated at once, with a respectful grin.

So even when we embrace the peaceful profession of shopkeeping we still find that

militant tactics are the ones that pay. And that is surely as it should be—in a shop that is painted purple, white, and green!

PORTRAIT OF CHRISTABEL PANKHURST.

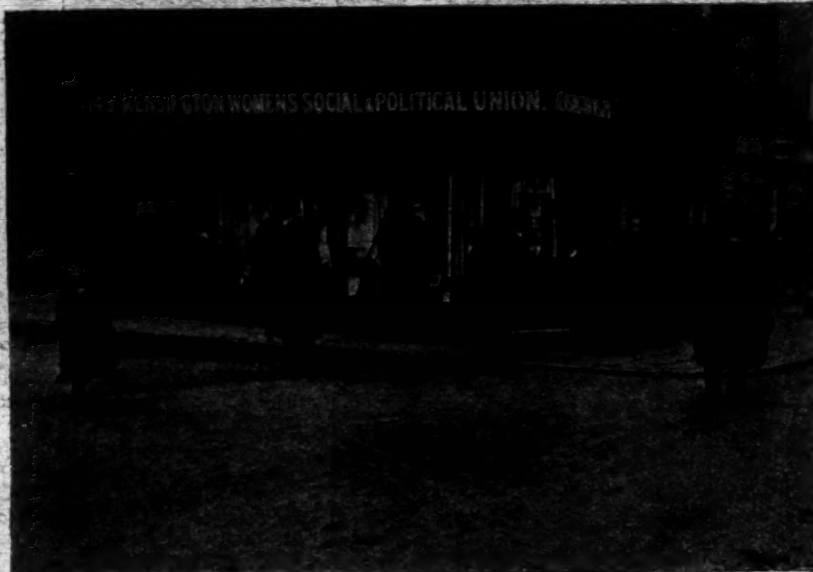
Miss Ethel Wright, who has been painting a portrait of Miss Christabel Pankhurst, writes to say that she will be pleased to see all members and friends of the W.S.P.U. at her studio, 24, Stafford Place Studios, Buckingham Palace Gate, on Saturdays, Sundays, and Tuesdays, in March, from 2 to 5 o'clock, to the private view of her picture on presentation of visiting card. Miss Wright is well known in the artistic world, and is an exhibitor at the Royal Academy.

N.W.S.P.U. MEMBERS' PLEDGE CARD.

WOMEN in all parts of the country who are not as yet definitely enrolled as members of the National Women's Social and Political Union are invited to sign the members' pledge card, which they can obtain from the offices, 4, Clements-inn, and apply for membership. The pledge is as follows:—

I endorse the objects and methods of the Women's Social and Political Union, and I hereby undertake not to support the candidate of any political party at Parliamentary elections until women have obtained the Parliamentary vote.

There is an entrance fee of 1s. No definite subscription is fixed, as it is known that all members will give to the full extent of their ability to further the campaign funds of the Union.



[By kind permission of the Topical Press.]

THE WOMAN'S EXHIBITION.

Prince's Skating Rink, May 13-26, 1909.

Communications to be addressed: Exhibition Secretary, W.S.P.U., 4, Clements Inn, W.C.

Just before her arrest and imprisonment for taking part in the deputation to the Prime Minister on February 24, Mrs. Pethick Lawrence was at work on a beautiful piece of embroidery in the colours, intended for the Woman's Exhibition. And Mrs. Pankhurst, having a long railway journey before her between two meetings, considered what she could do for the Exhibition, and, following Mrs. Lawrence's example, also plied her needle at embroidery.

With the leaders of the movement thus filling in every spare moment in working for the cause they have so much at heart, it is not surprising that the rank and file follow suit. And at the present moment, with one of its leaders and many brave comrades in prison, and, in consequence, additional responsibilities on their shoulders, members of the National Women's Social and Political Union are once more responding nobly to the call of duty.

The Woman's Pageant.

"To pag or not to pag" (is *Punch* responsible for the misquotation, or are we?), "that is the question." The W.S.P.U., however, does not stop to ask questions, it acts. And no sooner were the preliminary arrangements for holding the Woman's Exhibition made than the Committee responsible for the organisation decided that a pageant of women must form part of the entertainment programme. The W.S.P.U. pageant, however, will be something almost unique in the annals even of pageants. It will be on a miniature scale—in reality, a doll's pageant, the nearest approach to it being the Doll's Pageant held at Westminster some months ago. The W.S.P.U. Doll's Pageant, however, will be of more educational value, for there will be represented, in addition to women famous in history, some of the political and industrial problems of the day, and—statistics! How apparently cold facts will be represented by dolls we will not divulge at the moment; we will confine ourselves to making the strongest possible appeal to women of an artistic turn of mind (artists, art students) to send in their names at once to the Exhibition Secretary, 4, Clements Inn, and let her set them to work. Modellers are wanted; dolls' dressmakers are wanted; artists are wanted to take charge of groups of models; and others to design and make scenery and properties, and to do miniature carpentering. The time is short—if you can give the help indicated above, write by return of post. *One hundred workers are wanted!*

Lancashire's Splendid Example.

Among the many shining examples of loyalty within this wonderful movement Lancashire deserves to have special commendation. Miss Mary Gawthorpe writes as follows:—I am glad to be able to tell you that it is Lancashire's intention to provide three stalls for the great Bazaar as follows:—

Manchester and district	One stall.
Liverpool and district	One stall.
Southport and Preston	One stall.

It certainly looks as if Lancashire were going to lead! But as in all races the most brilliant start is not *always* the first at the winning post, we will not prophesy. Preparations are, we know, afoot in the West of England for at least two stalls, while Yorkshire and the Midlands run it pretty close, and Glasgow and Edinburgh, with their native caution, may be doing even more than appears on the surface, while Aberdeen is getting restive and fearful lest it may be outdone by the other Scottish centres. Much excellent work is being done, too, by the local W.S.P.U.'s.

The Lucky Tub.

Among the latter Chiswick is conspicuous with its Lucky Tub, on behalf of which Mrs. East writes that she will be glad if any friends will send contributions (value, 1d. to 1s.). People who are working for stalls, she reminds us, frequently have small articles given them, which are not quite suitable for a stall, but which would do nicely for the Lucky Tub. If friends would kindly send these or any suitable article on to her at 21, Brandenburgh Road, Chiswick, she would be very glad.

The Book Stall.

Our readers will be interested to know that the stall for which the Writers' League have made themselves responsible is, very fittingly, to be a Book Stall. Many of the volumes on this stall will be given by the authors themselves as a free gift to the funds of the W.S.P.U., but, in addition, we wish to make a special appeal to readers to help the League to make their stall truly representative of literature by (1) sending copies of their own published works; (2)

influencing well-known literary friends to contribute copies of their works; (3) subscribing money to purchase books. The Writers' League is a young society, having been in existence only some nine or ten months, and as many of its members are women earning their own living, contributions towards the stall, of the kind indicated above, will be greatly appreciated. The President, Miss Elizabeth Robins, and Miss Beatrice Harraden have already promised autograph copies of their books, and most of the best-known members of the League will take part in selling at the stall. The Secretary of the League is Miss Bessie Hatton, 15, Sandringham Court, Maida Vale, W.

A Pottery Stall.

Mrs. Howey, who, with her daughters, is one of the most valued workers in the W.S.P.U. in the West of England, is interested in the Pottery Stall, and asks us to appeal for leadless glazeware. This innocuous form of pottery can now, we believe, be procured in many and varied designs, and we look, therefore, to our readers to send promises to Mrs. Howey, the Hurst, Cradley, Malvern. Another appeal from Mrs. Howey is for string bags, which, she suggests, will have a ready sale for carrying home purchases from the Bazaar.

The Farm Produce Stall.

Mrs. Marshall writes:—

We should like to thank Mrs. Mary Gillies for promising to send two cases of rolled oats, which, we hear, are very special for the Exhibition; also Miss Convan has promised £1 worth of honey; Mrs. C. E. Allan some conserve; Mrs. Murray, marmalade; Mr. George Fowler, bottled fruits. The competition will be announced very shortly. The Misses Dick are giving the prizes for the best poultry sent in on May 3. The prizes are, 1st, £1; 2nd, 12s. 6d.; 3rd, 6s. The Hon. Secretary has promised the same for May 22. Miss Gray has promised the prizes for the best ducks sent in on May 13. They are of the same value as the poultry prizes. Will anybody else like the honour of offering the prizes for the best butter? These are to be 1st, 12s.; 2nd, 6s.; 3rd, 3s. The duck prizes are also required for May 22. Mrs. Allan Paffard has kindly contributed 7s. 6d. towards the prize-money.

Y.H.B.

The Y.H.B.'s ask us to inform their members and others that, in addition to the Tuesday evening working party announced last week they have decided to hold one every Saturday afternoon immediately before their usual meeting in Alan's Tea Rooms, 263, Oxford Street. This will begin at 3 o'clock, and it is hoped that a large number of members will be able to attend. Work will be found for those who have not yet been able to begin any or who cannot continue the work they have already begun away from their own homes.

A Suggestion for the Easter Holidays.

While Mrs. Pethick Lawrence will be spending Easter in Holloway, there may be some among our members who are happy in being able to make plans for running over to the Continent, or making a flying visit to Madeira or elsewhere. We would remind any who are contemplating spending Easter abroad, or who have friends who are going to do so, of our caravan for the sale of basket-work of all descriptions. Baskets are usually to be bought at the various Continental and other resorts, and gifts of this kind for the caravan will be very welcome. Another stall which promises to be an unusually interesting feature of the Exhibition is the International Stall, on behalf of which we have already appealed. Very encouraging promises have come from Japan, China, Siam, Cuba, and elsewhere. The stall, to be truly international, must include as many countries as possible, and as we want more promises of Continental goods of various kinds, we appeal to holiday-making readers to be on the look-out for curios, which can always be picked up in Italy, Switzerland, and elsewhere, with a view to the International Stall.

Children's Clothing.

Under this heading last week we inadvertently gave the wrong address. Measurements, patterns, etc., for clothing for children of tender years are asked for by Streatham members, and should be sent to the Hon. Secretary, 87A, Streatham Hill, S.W. Wimbledon members are also making clothes, but for children over seven; patterns and materials will be sent to all friends who will help in the production of good and useful articles, and offers of help towards completing a Wimbledon stall will be gladly welcomed by the Hon. Secretary, Favo, Marryat Road, Wimbledon Common.

Entertainments.

In addition to entertainments already promised by the Actress Franchise League and music by the Mascots' Ladies' Band, who have generously promised their help, Miss Millman promises music by the Eilan Vannin Band on three days in each week during the time the Exhibition is open. Other offers by ladies' bands are asked for, in order that the musical programme may be completed.

THE PRIME MINISTER AT QUEEN'S HALL.

Although, as the *Times* remarks, great care had been taken to exclude from the meeting at Queen's Hall on Tuesday night "all Suffragist agitators," Mr. Asquith was given an effective objection on the fact that he has to reckon not only with the women of the country, but with public opinion among men in all political parties, which is daily growing more strongly in favour of the women's demand.

The *Daily Express* remarks that in consequence of the fears of a Suffragist raid the arrangements for admission to the hall were inadequate. Only one door was opened to the 5,000 people, and around this there was practically a free fight between ticket-holders and those without tickets to gain an entrance. When Mr. and Mrs. Asquith (who, with the exception of the Secretary of the Free Trade Union, Miss Pretious, was the only woman present) took their seats on the platform, the stalls were half empty. The meeting, "In defence of Free Trade," was presided over by Lord Avebury, and among those present on the platform were Mr. Lewis Harcourt and Mr. Walter Runciman.

The protest made was a very effective and vigorous one, and resulted in the violent ejection of the men who made it.

Mr. Asquith had only been speaking a few minutes, and was referring to the hearty support which was given him by the audience, when a man asked from the first tier: "Where are the women of England? Have you locked them all up?" Immediately hands were laid upon him by the stewards, and he was violently removed. A little later another man, this time from the area, asked, "When are you going to give votes to women?" He was treated in the same way. After a little while another man stood up and shouted "Votes for women!" He was at once set upon, and, resisting ejection, was dealt with with considerable violence, one man striking him a blow full in the face. With nose and mouth bleeding he was removed from the hall. Towards the close of the meeting a man rose in order to move an amendment in favour of Votes for Women. The Chairman refused to listen to him, and he was forcibly removed from his seat in the balcony.

Mr. Birrell at Bristol.

Mr. Birrell, who paid a visit to his constituency last week-end, had nearly a dozen reminders of the importance of Votes for Women. Miss Wentworth and Miss Howey met him at the station, and informed him that women were determined to get the vote this session, and that there were women in prison for asking that Liberal principles should be put into practice. Mr. Birrell replied, "Tut, tut." Thenceforth, until after his Sunday afternoon engagement at a meeting, Mr. Birrell was repeatedly reminded of the women's claim, but to all requests for an interview he turned a deaf ear, merely wiring, "Cannot see you; have nothing to say.—Birrell."

Mr. Haldane at Westminster Barracks.

On Friday, at the Westminster Barracks, Mr. Haldane distributed prizes to the members of the Queen's Westminster Territorials. He conducted the ceremony in silence, afterwards coming forward on the platform and addressing the assembled youths. He had been speaking about three minutes when a member of the W.S.P.U. rose and remarked: "Mr. Haldane." She had no time to finish the sentence. Territorials threw themselves upon her, dragged her out, and the entire hall was immediately in an uproar. Under cover of the excited condition into which the men had thrown themselves, another woman, mounting the three steps leading on to the platform, conversed calmly with the Minister for War for some moments quite unnoticed. A Territorial, seeing what had taken place, ran up the steps to remove her, but unfortunately for his dignity fell down again. Valiantly stepping into the breach, however, other Territorials removed the woman, and another who began "Mr. Haldane" was similarly treated. A fourth woman, waiting until Mr. Haldane was touching upon the Crimean War, for which, he said, the men were totally unprepared, then remarked, "Yes, but the women came forward in the Crimean War." She was also removed.

Mr. Asquith's Flight.

The Prime Minister was ignominiously put to flight a few days ago by two women who had no intention of interrogating him, but who happened to be walking along a West End street and recognised Mr. Asquith, who was walking just in front of them. One, turning to the other, said in her ordinary tones, "What about Votes for Women?" The Prime Minister turned and fled across the street.

DEPUTATION TO MR. RUNCIMAN.

A deputation of head mistresses of public schools and others waited upon Mr. Runciman at the Board of Education on Thursday in last week to urge upon him desired reforms in reference to the appointment of women inspectors. The deputation consisted of Lady Frances Balfour, Lady Knightley of Fawsley, Mrs. Bryant, D.Sc., Mrs. Montagu Butler, Mrs. Byles, Mrs. John Ellis, Mrs. Corrie Grant, Mrs. John Massie, Mrs. W. Rea, Mrs. Woodhouse (president of the Association of Head Mistresses), Miss Margaret Ashton, Miss Bancroft (president of the Association of Assistant Mistresses), Miss Janet Case (president of the Association of University Women Teachers), Miss F. Gadesden (vice-president of the Association of Head Mistresses), Miss Hitchcock (National Union of Women Workers), Miss Constance Jones (Principal of Girton College), Miss Penrose (Principal of Somerville College), Miss Phoebe Sheavyn (Federation of University Women in Manchester), and Miss Ruth Young (secretary of the Head Mistresses' Association).

Mrs. Woodhouse, who introduced the deputation, urged that more women who knew the problem of the elementary and secondary schools should be appointed inspectors. The ideal woman inspector should possess an honours degree or its equivalent. She should carry weight as a specialist as well as an inspector, and her appointment should be preceded by a period of markedly successful teaching in a secondary school.

Mrs. Byles said that the deputation were deeply discontented with the small number of women inspectors, with the character of the work given to them, and with their official status and salaries. She did not see any necessity for limiting the work of women inspectors to domestic subjects. Woman was not merely something handy at the end of a needle or a frying-pan. Local authorities themselves would employ women inspectors if the Board of Education led the way. Why should women be limited to the scullery-maid's work of the profession?

Miss Margaret Ashton said complaints were constantly made as to bad housing arrangements, bad cooking, infant mortality, and other evils said to be due to the incapacity of working women, but this incapacity was encouraged by our educational system and by the lack of women's influence in the arrangement of the courses in the elementary schools. The unsatisfactory conditions, which it was the desire of the deputation to see remedied, arose because the authorities had not granted to the women inspectors the full position of H.M.I. on the same basis as men. Insecurity of tenure of office was unendurable to women of education and position. If their services were worth anything to the country they were worth as much as the services of the men inspectors. The deputation felt that to restrict the inspectors to domestic subjects was to relegate them to a lower class. Not to secure to them any Civil Service pension or fixity of tenure was to lower their status and to damage their work. You could not expect women of high attainments and the same training as men to take a lower salary for precisely the same work, and it would be impossible to get the best women so long as this discrepancy of payment and of opportunity existed. Both men and women were necessary to the welfare of the community, and more and more official women inspectors were wanted on the same terms as men.

Speeches were also made by Mrs. Corrie Grant, Miss Janet Case, Miss Hitchcock, and Miss Bancroft.

Mr. Runciman said he understood that the deputation desired to improve the position of women generally in the public service and to do the best they could for the schools. One of their objects was, he understood, to redress the balance between men and women on the staff. The Board had been doing that for the last six or seven years, during which there had been an increase in the number of women and a diminution in the number of men. Another point put to him was that they ought not to pay smaller salaries to the women than to the men inspectors. That was unfortunately the case not only at the Board of Education but at all other Government Departments, and in every department of life, except perhaps in the medical profession, and he was sure the deputation would not expect the Board to embark on a campaign of their own. That did not interfere with status. Some stress had been laid by several speakers on the fact that a large number of the women inspectors were devoted purely to domestic subjects, but it was a great mistake to suppose that the majority of them were. He did not think it wise for either the deputation or the Board to understate the value of domestic subjects. The scullery-maid was a very important part of life, for men had bodies as well as minds. To imagine that women could be kept to domestic subjects all their lives was a narrow view not shared by him. At the same time he hoped nothing would be done to belittle those subjects. Quite recently a woman inspector had been appointed for training colleges and pupil-teacher centres. Previously that work was not done by women at all. He had appointed Miss Rendall as inspector of physical exercises for girls.

After thanking Mr. Runciman the deputation withdrew.

OUR POST BOX.

HELPING THE SALE OF "VOTES FOR WOMEN."

To the Editors of VOTES FOR WOMEN.

DEAR SIR,—I see in Our Post Box that a member has rented a space at a railway bookstall for the display of the VOTES FOR WOMEN poster. This seems an excellent idea. I do not know at all what the cost would be, but if any fund were started to do the same at some of the London stations, I should be pleased to subscribe £1.—Yours, etc.,

ROSIE POTT.

[It is not necessary to open a fund for this purpose, greatly as we appreciate the kind offer, and we should suggest that efforts in the direction of getting the poster shown should be made locally by our members.—ED., VOTES FOR WOMEN.]

A SUGGESTION.

To the Editors of VOTES FOR WOMEN.

DEAR SIR,—Many members of the N.W.S.P.U. may have sums of money invested in various companies. I should like to suggest to those who have not taken the trouble to reclaim from the Government the money deducted as income-tax that they should do so now, and give the money to our Union fund. I am doing this myself.—Yours, etc.,

ETHEL MILLS.

The Maples, 188, Bedford Hill, Balham, S.W.

WHERE THE LAW IS UNJUST TO WOMEN.

To the Editors of VOTES FOR WOMEN.

DEAR SIR,—Re your article, "Where the Law is Unjust to Women," in the issue of March 5 (page 399, column 2, paragraph 1), it is interesting to note that Paquin's case decided that where a husband had made his wife a dress allowance, which she had used for other purposes, the action against him did not lie. Very likely this was one of Bax's "spoiled child of the law" cases. I am not sure.—Yours etc.,

A. C. S.

THE "PHYSICAL FORCE" FALLACY.

To the Editors of VOTES FOR WOMEN.

DEAR SIR,—As a "woman of the future," may I be allowed a small space in which to endorse Mrs. Pendered's splendid letter on the physical disability of women? I am an average girl of the day. I have two cousins about my own age in the Territorials. In the case of one I am actually stronger than he, and, though not stronger in muscle than the other, I am stronger in endurance and stamina, for when we return from a ride or long walk he will be tired out, while I am scarcely fatigued at all. My cousins represent the average "Terry" young clerk. Now my brother, a strong, healthy specimen, very good at athletics as a boy, is certainly very much stronger than I, as I found out in our nursery days, but, on the other hand, I am equal to him in physical and moral courage. I am sure I could fight as well as many of my boy or men friends if I had to—at any rate, I am quicker and have more presence of mind.—Yours, etc.,

A SCHOLGIRL.

FRANCHISE BILL AND GENERAL ELECTION.

To the Editors of VOTES FOR WOMEN.

DEAR SIR,—In the exceedingly interesting letter by Theodora Bonwick relating to the extension of the franchise in 1867 and 1884 a slight misstatement appears. In the latter case the Franchise Bill became law in December, 1884, and the dissolution took place in November, 1885, but though the intervening period is thus eleven months instead of fourteen months, as Miss Bonwick suggests, the main line of her argument is nevertheless true. In fact, so impossible was it to dissolve immediately after the passing of the Bill that in both cases a curious constitutional position arose owing to the fact that the Ministry ceased to have a majority in the House, and yet were unable to appeal to the country by dissolution until after the lapse of many months.—Yours, etc.,

C. M.

THE MILLINERY STALL.

To the Editors of VOTES FOR WOMEN.

DEAR SIR,—I was for some years a Fellow of the Wild Birds Protection Society, and only recently resigned in order to give my annual subscription where it was even more needed, to the N.W.S.P.U. I am one of the links of four generations who have refused to wear the plumage of any poor feathered beauty, killed solely to adorn a leatherless biped's hat. Perhaps it is because we are fighting so hard for liberty that so few of our members transgress in this way against the birds, which are surely Nature's best type of joyous freedom.—Yours, etc.,

JOAN BAILLIE GUTHRIE.

10, St. Alban's Road, Kensington, W.

To the Editors of VOTES FOR WOMEN.

DEAR SIR,—May I say how very glad I have been to see Miss Mordan and Mrs. Hare's letters to our millinery stall? I, too, hope we shall not admit any "murderous millinery" to our exhibits. I think we shall gain much if we do not. I have not had the pleasure of meeting our leaders many times, but when I have, I have been very pleased to see that they did not wear any. Hoping we shall double our membership while our brave women are at Holloway.—Yours, etc.,

M. S. TURNER.

AFTER THE BYE-ELECTION.

To the Editors of VOTES FOR WOMEN.

DEAR SIR,—When the figures announcing the result of the Glasgow election were out I went down to the Constitutional Club and sold VOTES FOR WOMEN to the members as they came out of the building. Votes for women won the election, I told them. One gentleman who bought a copy said that he would send it to his daughter, who is at Newnham, and others told me that they were greatly interested in the question. They did not deny my claim that Mr. Scott Dickson owed his victory to the women.—Yours, etc.,

Leicester.

A. S. CLARKE.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Questions intended for answer in this column should be addressed to the Editors "Votes for Women," and specially marked "Answers to Correspondents." They must be accompanied by name and address of the sender, and should be questions relating directly to Woman Suffrage or to the policy of the N.W.S.P.U.

58. Was there ever any law under which women had the right to the Parliamentary vote? If so, in whose reign was it passed, and what are the references to it? Was it repealed, and, if so, by what Act and in whose reign?

Our questioner should read "British Free Women" and "The Sphere of Man and Woman in the Constitution," both by Mrs. C. C. Stopes, and both on sale at the Woman's Press, 4, Clements Hill, W.C., price 2s. 6d., and 6d. net respectively. The Woman's Press will shortly be bringing out a pamphlet by Miss Chrystal Macmillan, who recently represented the case of the Scottish Graduates in the House of Lords; this will throw further light on the subject. The price of the pamphlet will be one penny.

59. How will the vote improve the position in the labour market? Would not combination of women work better?

The possession of the Parliamentary vote will enable women to get better industrial legislation by improving their general status. It has been proved in the case of working men that the vote is essential to industrial progress. Trades unions are very useful in the case of women as in the case of men, but unless their members have political influence the power of a trade union is very much less than it otherwise would be. Men trade unionists declare that Trades Unionism alone, without political action, is insufficient as a means of protecting industrial interests. The same is the case where women are concerned.

60. Why is there no organisation among the million and a-half women rate and tax payers, who are certainly within their rights in demanding the vote? Would it not be wiser for these women to flatly refuse to pay taxes on property, etc., and act in organisation, rather than to alienate a considerable amount of support and sympathy by Parliament Square tactics? Such a move, if carried to a logical conclusion, would make the Chancellor sit up.

There are many suffrage organisations to which women rate and tax payers can and do belong. Although refusal to pay taxes is a useful means of agitation, it is not nearly so effective as the militant measures adopted by the Women's Social and Political Union.

61. How will women be able to raise the standard of their wages when they get the vote?

See the answer to question 59. When women are enfranchised, the Government, which is the largest employer of labour in the country, will no longer be able to have a different scale for the payment of men and women in their employment, and other employers of labour throughout the country will be obliged to follow suit.

62. It is often said that when women's wages are raised they will compete more than they do at present with men, and so the wages of both will be lower than they are now for the same work, and that, moreover, this will put more men out of employment.

The raising of women's wages to the level of men's will mean that the best workers, irrespective of sex, will be employed. What really does put men out of work at present is that employers can get women for lower wages.

EXTRACTS FROM THE PRESS.

The "MANCHESTER GUARDIAN," March 5th. Mr. Geoffrey Howard's Suffrage Bill.

Mr. Geoffrey Howard's Suffrage Bill has just been printed, and we publish the text to-day. Its terms have already been made known, and have caused much interest and some indignation. For it was supposed that the Bill was to be a Women's Suffrage Bill, and when it took shape it was found to be a Bill for adult suffrage plus the abolition of the plural vote. As Mr. Howard had drawn the third place for his Bill, and no other supporter of women's suffrage has had anything like the same good fortune, it is probable that no Women's Suffrage Bill proper will get a chance this year. Mr. Howard's plea is that his Bill is adapted to meet Mr. Asquith's stipulation that if the Government are to give free play to a women's suffrage amendment to their Reform Bill it must be drawn on "democratic lines." The Bill has been drawn accordingly, and its object is to test the feeling of the House and to prepare the way for the suffrage amendment to the promised Reform Bill. It is only in some such form as this, Mr. Howard believes, that women's suffrage can now be commended to the mass of Liberal members, who held that to give votes only to women "on the same terms as to men"—that is only to property owners, lodgers, or householders—would be virtually to set up a property franchise for women, and that the alternative which has been proposed of making the husband's qualification as a householder stand good also for the wife is to set up a fancy franchise and to introduce fresh complications and anomalies. Therefore he proposes to abolish the sex qualification and the householding qualification together, and provides that the only condition required for registration as a Parliamentary voter shall be that the person registered, whether man or woman, shall be of full age, and shall have resided for not less than three months before July 15 within the same constituency.

Whatever may be said for or against this Bill, it is at least obvious that it is not a Bill merely to remove a sex disability, but one to revolutionise the franchise. It would qualify probably several million new male voters, and would also enfranchise a number of female voters equal to and probably greater than the whole number of male voters. It would at the same time deprive the plural voters of their plural votes—a provision which has no connection whatever, direct or indirect, that we can discover with the question of women's suffrage. Well may those whose primary object is simply to destroy the sex disability and to secure a vote if it may be for even a single woman decline responsibility for a Bill which would interpose obstacles so gigantic to the attainment of that end. It may be that to such a consummation we are tending, and that for the full working out of the democratic idea it is needful. But we do not think it is the quickest or the safest way for giving women votes, and if Mr. Asquith really means that on no other terms they can be given, does he not also mean that by him or any Government of which he is a member they cannot be given at all? That at least, only too obviously, would be the probable result.

THE "YORKSHIRE FACTORY TIMES."

Another batch of our sisters have been sent to gaol. Whether everybody entirely agrees with the tactics of the more militant section of the Suffragettes or not, there is an overwhelming majority in the country in favour of the franchise being extended to the female sex. That these ladies have nothing to gain personally by confinement in prisons everybody must admit, and I am sure we all ought to feel deeply gratified there are women prepared to suffer so much for the furtherance of our cause. . . . I hope the day is not far distant when votes will be granted to woman, when she shall be allowed to have some say as to what shall be the conditions under which she must live and toil. Therefore, for that reason, I say all honour is due to the militant Suffragettes who have done so much to bring our needs to the front.

THE "ONLOOKER," March 6.

A Bill on the lines of Manhood Suffrage has, one now knows, been definitely foreshadowed by Mr. Asquith's Government. In other words, the Government are deliberately planning legislation which will tend to make woman's position inferior even to what it

is at the present time, for the Premier's chance references to Woman's Suffrage are a mere party dodge, a red herring drawn across the political trail.

The real intention is to allow history to repeat itself, and, by the lowering of the franchise to what practically amounts to little less than adult Male Suffrage, to recruit the register with a fresh access of ignorant voters, and so, for a time at least, to swamp the intelligent and propertied vote.

For this reason, if for no other, all Conservatives who will take the trouble to think out the trend of events and look below the surface of things should strive with all their might to procure the enfranchisement of duly qualified women. The party that carries this measure will gain a large access of influence, intelligence, and devotion, and although the other parties will also gain by the enfranchisement, the women that support them, the whole trend of the movement will be to arrest a tendency which some politicians seem to have for an appeal to ignorance and instability.

The extension of the franchise to women is, therefore, a distinctly Conservative measure, and every true Conservative woman should use all her influence to leaven the party in this vital matter with the clearly expressed views of those two great Conservative leaders and statesmen, Lord Beaconsfield and Lord Salisbury, as well as of their present leader, Mr. Balfour, on this problem.—(From an article by "Pointsman" on "Adult or Women's Suffrage?")

THE "LABOUR LEADER," February 26.

Mr. Howard and his friends have deliberately thrown away their opportunity. The Bill which he has introduced is entitled "A Bill to amend the law relating to the representation of the people in the United Kingdom, and to remove the electoral disabilities of women." . . . What strikes one about it is that the enfranchisement of women is dragged in at the tail-end of the title as a kind of after-thought. Instead, therefore, of having a clear-cut issue and a definite pronouncement from the House of Commons on this important question the issue will be complicated by other matters, and further confusion will be created.

I do not know whether the Liberal Women's Associations have agreed to this course of action. Prior to Parliament assembling a conclave of some kind was held at which the subject was discussed, and it may be that Lady Carlisle, Lady Eva McLaren, and the other Liberal women Suffragists agreed to the course that has now been taken. That is their affair. The point I want to emphasise is that from the point of view of securing the early enfranchisement of women the Bill now introduced is a fraud. It will be interesting to watch how Liberal women in the country take this fresh blasting of their hopes by their "friends" in Parliament.—(From an article by Mr. Keir Hardie, "The Fooling of Women.")

STRANGERS IN THE HOUSE.

There seems to be little chance of the readmission of strangers to the galleries of the House of Commons till after Easter, says the *Morning Post*. Members of the Government declare themselves unable to find time before the Easter vacation for the discussion of the Bill for the punishment of visitors guilty of disorder, and it is well understood that the galleries are not to be reopened till that measure has become law. The Prime Minister seemed hopeful at the beginning of the session that the Bill would be allowed to go through all its stages without discussion, but several members who have points to raise are resolved not to assent to this course. One of these members is Mr. Watson Rutherford, who represents the West Derby Division of Liverpool. He stated that he had three questions to bring forward on the Bill. The first of these is that no mention is made in its provisions of the members who introduce strangers. Mr. Watson Rutherford takes the view that if a visitor abuses the privilege of admission the member who has franked him into the House ought to be to some extent responsible. His second point is that the "precincts" of the House ought to be included in the Bill, which at present relates only to the "Palace of Westminster." Parliament Square, where disorder has occurred on recent occasions, is, of course, not part of the Palace of Westminster. Mr. Watson Rutherford desires also to call attention to the fact that it is proposed for the first time to take away from the House its ancient jurisdiction over disorderly strangers and transfer it to a police magistrate. He contends that all these subjects are deserving of some discussion. Hitherto the Government has attempted to take the second reading of the Bill at a time when no debate is possible—on three or four occasions after midnight. It will be remembered that a Bill was drafted as a result of the deliberations of the Committee which sat to consider the "grille" incident of the Suffragettes, and that it proposes to deal not merely with the strangers galleries of the House, but also with other parts of the building.

PROGRESS OF WOMEN.

Women's Inventions.

Numbers of ingenious inventions will be on view at a woman's exhibition in London next autumn, among them being improvements in airships, steam engines, and boilers, and methods of protecting battleships and cruisers against gun fire. Last year nearly 600 applications for patents were made by women. The inventions included seven safety razors, nearly a dozen motor-car improvements, half a dozen inventions in connection with airships and aeroplanes, several inventions dealing with fire-escapes of various kinds, and the list includes the following:—Life preservers and swimming machines, electrically actuated pumps, hobbles for animals, hay-making and swath-turning machine, repeating flashlight apparatus, washable furs, stud-bolts for use in connection with sludge-hole covers, invisible war shields, tools for killing poultry and fishes, non-refillable bottle, self-lighting sealing wax, steam generators, bridge bits, targets, sand gear for electric tramcars. One woman has made a dozen applications in connection with games and amusements. Ink bottles and office accessories are an important item, and a woman is responsible for a means of preventing punctures in pneumatic tyres. The *Daily Express*, commenting on the subject, says:—

The fact is, we have for so many centuries regarded woman as a mere domestic ornament, filling her office with such eminent satisfaction, that we have not noticed her advance in the arts of trade and commerce. When the "new woman" appeared on the horizon some twenty years ago the world laughed and wrote funny verses about her. But, in the words of the American paragrapher, the "new woman" has "made good," and she now stands before the world challenging man in his own field, and holding her own, too. And we say: More power to her elbow!

The "Physical Force" Fallacy.

The first annual report on the medical examination of school children, which has just been presented to the Bury St. Edmund's Education Committee, states that the girls show a much higher standard of height and weight than the boys.

Rare Distinction Conferred on a Woman.

Mrs. Cighera, an Englishwoman by birth, has been appointed *traductrice jurée* (sworn translator) to the Paris Appeal Court. She is the first woman to hold this title in France, if not in the world, and in Paris it was until recently only granted to very few legal translators. Mrs. Cighera's reputation for a knowledge of languages drew upon her the attention of M. Briand, Minister of Justice, hence her appointment.

Italian Women and the Vote.

Though there is nothing yet in Italy corresponding to the militant agitation in this country, Italy, like other countries, has its share of the woman's movement. Donna Giacinta Martini, wife of the ex-Governor of the Red Sea Colony, and President of the Committee for Female Suffrage, has induced her Committee to support those candidates for Parliament who are in favour of giving votes to women without regard to party. An election committee of ladies has accordingly been formed to assist such candidates by means of lectures, letters, and addresses. A manifesto has, moreover, been drawn up, pointing out the duty of women in studying questions of politics, such as education, the rise in prices and rents, and the legal status of their own sex, now before the public. The general election, which took place last Sunday, is the first in which the question of woman's suffrage has been raised. The "Feminine Committee of Woman's Right to the Suffrage" sent circulars to its members urging them to use all their influence towards the election of candidates favourable to their cause. At a meeting in Rome the Baroness de Bonis, president of the committee, and Signorina Labriola, vice-president, made speeches, the occasion being the first on which women have spoken at an Italian election meeting. At Nuoro, the Sardinian home of the famous novelist Signora Grazia Deledda, a group of electors decided to cast their votes for her, by way of demonstrating in favour of woman's suffrage. It appears that the question may very likely be one of the first to be discussed by the new Parliament.

Votes for Women in the United States.

The Woman Suffragists of New York and elsewhere have been demonstrating before the Legislatures of their respective States, with the object of giving their support to the Bill now before the State Legislature providing for the submission to the popular vote of an amendment to the State Constitution omitting the word "male" before the word "voters," and defining the right of suffrage. Mrs. B. Borman Wells, of England, accompanied one of the deputations on behalf of the National Progressive Women's Suffrage Union. Two thousand women, headed by Mrs. Julia Ward Howe and the Rev. Anna Shaw, made a descent on the State House on the occasion of a debate on Woman Suffrage in the Joint Committee of the Legislature, Boston. The women marched in procession and crowded in after their leaders until the committee-room, the corridor, the stairs, and the doorway to the street

were blocked. A dozen women addressed the Committee, but no decision was come to by that body for or against the introduction of a Bill entitling women to the vote in the State elections of Massachusetts. Some of the women outside addressed the crowd, and the demonstration attracted great attention. Reuter's correspondent says that the police dispersed forcibly an overflow meeting of sympathisers, which was being addressed by Miss Rachael Costello, of England.

Women and the Wesleyan Conference.

We learn from the *South Wales Daily News* that a committee has just been formed for advocating the right of women to sit in the Wesleyan Conference, and that it is expected that some of the male supporters of the movement will raise the question at the next conference. A vigorous propaganda will, it is added, be carried out among members of the Wesleyan body in support of the demand.

Woman Suffrage in France.

The news comes from Paris that a National Union for Women's Suffrage has just been formed there. France will, we understand, be represented at the forthcoming International Congress in London by Madame Schmall, President of the new organisation. The Union consists already of a dozen or so of feminist societies, besides about fifty members of its own not belonging to any of these organisations.

Mistress of Cat Portraiture.

Madame Honnaeta Ronner, the famous painter of "the harmless, necessary cat," has just died at Brussels, where she has lived for the last forty years, at the green old age of eighty-eight. She was born at Amsterdam. One of her best-known pictures, "Gentle Provocation," was exhibited at the Royal Academy, and as long ago as 1890 she had an exhibition of her work at the Fine Art Gallery, New Bond Street. She has been called the Rosa Bonheur of the cat world.

Turkish Women's Fight for Liberty.

The battle for freedom in Turkey is likely to be long and arduous. We learn that being under the impression the new régime would completely modify all prevailing Moslem ideas, women had taken to going out into the streets unveiled, and several hundreds had asked to have a patriotic play performed before them in the local theatre, to be exclusively reserved for women. This was agreed to by the local "Young Turk" Committee, but on the day of the performance hundreds of Mussulmans armed with knives surrounded the theatre, threatening to kill any woman who attempted to enter. The authorities of Aiden, the second city in the Smyrna district, have published a decree whereby any man seen talking to a Mussulman woman in the street or elsewhere shall be fined 100 piastres, while the woman herself is to be bastinadoed.

Women in Mexico.

The Mexican Government has sent out ten women as education commissioners to study the best methods in various countries. One of these is Mrs. Lema Mendez de Cuenca, who was recently a delegate to the International Congress of Moral Education held in London. Miss Juana Palacios, head of the Normal School for Girls at Puebla, is in Boston, investigating the best methods of teaching arithmetic. Miss Castanda, inspector of kindergartens for the city of Mexico, is studying the kindergarten system in New York; and Miss Bertha von Glummer is in Chicago studying elementary education. Two women are in France, where technical schools are their special object of investigation. In many ways Mexico is progressive. Its national colleges and professional schools, including those of music and art, give free tuition and are open to women. When the first woman graduated from the medical school, about twenty years ago, the Minister of Education made her a present of a carriage and a sum of money sufficient to set up an office. At least ten women are now practising in the city of Mexico. Four of the fifteen members of the National Bureau of Education are women.

A Crimean Heroine.

A woman Crimean veteran has died at Southsea in the person of Mrs. D'Arcy, whose body was followed to the grave by veterans who were her comrades in the field over fifty years ago. Mrs. D'Arcy was the widow of a private in the 23rd Foot, Royal Welsh Fusiliers, and was with him throughout the campaign. She was present at the battle of the Alma, and took part in the nursing of the sick and wounded there.

Women Navigators.

A certificate as master of navigation has just been issued at Chicago to Mrs. Thomas Whitherbee Foote, who, when the yachting season opens, will, we understand, be in command of the *Wawataysee*, a yacht-rigged vessel with auxiliary engine power. Mrs. Foote's husband is to act as chief engineer. The first woman to obtain a master's certificate after due examination by the federal inspector was Mrs. Ogden McClurg, who navigates her own yacht, *Sea Poa*.

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Organising Sec.

MR. GEOFFREY HOWARD'S BILL.

The demand which the Women's Social and Political Union make of the Government is, that they shall introduce and carry into law a special and separate measure for the enfranchisement of those women who possess the qualifications entitling men to vote, and that this measure shall be enacted before any other alteration is made in the franchise law.

The measure which from the beginning of the movement has had the support of women suffragists runs as follows:—

In all Acts relating to the qualifications and registration of voters or persons entitled or claiming to be registered and to vote in the election of members of Parliament, wherever words occur which import the masculine gender the same shall be held to include women for all purposes connected with and having reference to the right to be registered as voters and to vote in such election, any law or usage to the contrary notwithstanding.

It will be seen that this Bill aims solely at abolishing the political disability of sex, and that it will not effect any other change in the qualifications required for voting. The measure has been before Parliament for forty years, the second reading having been carried in 1870, and this measure it is which we urge the present Government to carry into law without delay.

Instead of acceding to this reasonable demand, the Prime Minister talks vaguely of a possible Reform Bill which, as far as the Government is concerned, will apply only to men, and he invites us to try what would be the fate of a Woman Suffrage Amendment to this Bill moved by a private member. This attempt to complicate the question of woman suffrage with other and more controversial matters of electoral law he makes in the hope of wrecking the woman suffrage movement.

As yet there is no sign of the Government's Reform Bill, but a preliminary step in their campaign against votes for women has been taken by the introduction of a private member's Bill, which proposes to establish manhood and womanhood suffrage subject to a three months' residential qualification, and is described as a Bill to "amend the law relating to the representation of the people of the United Kingdom, and to remove the electoral disabilities of women." In spite of this reference to the removal of women's disabilities, there is only the thinnest pretence on the part of Liberals that the Bill is designed in the interest of the women's movement. The "Manchester Guardian," acting in a truly Liberal spirit and, as we think, in the best interests of the Liberal party, attacks this Bill as being one which will oppose "gigantic obstacles" to the attainment of woman suffrage.

One of the gravest features of the situation is the fact that the member who has introduced the Bill in question is one who, by his acceptance of the post of Joint Secretary to the Committee of Members of Parliament friendly to our cause, and by the pledge given before his election, is deeply committed to support a genuine measure of woman suffrage. His plain duty was, on securing his very excellent place in the ballot, to introduce the Women's Enfranchisement Bill. That Bill was introduced last year by Mr. Stanger, and passed the second

reading by a large majority. The Government refused the necessary facilities, and so the further progress of the Bill was blocked. But this year they would for various reasons have found it very much more difficult to deny facilities. In the first place, the women's movement is stronger now than it was a year ago. In the second place, it is generally recognised that as the present Parliament may come to an end this year, and can hardly continue beyond the end of next Session, this is the moment for dealing with woman's enfranchisement. Further, the Government themselves destroyed the argument that votes cannot be granted to women on the initiative of a private member, when they admitted the possibility of including a private member's amendment for woman suffrage in a General Reform Bill. Obviously, there is no real difference in principle between carrying into law a private member's amendment on the one hand, and a private member's Bill on the other. In this connection it is interesting to notice that another great revolution in the position of women (namely, that effected by the first Married Women's Property Act) was made by means of a private member's Bill. The hope of success which the introduction by a private member of the Women's Enfranchisement Bill would have afforded has been frustrated for the Session by the action of Mr. Geoffrey Howard. His conduct will, however, have two good effects.

In the first place, he renders us a service by giving practical demonstration of the futility of an Election Policy which consists, not in opposing the Government, but in supporting that candidate who is most profuse in his promises of personal support of woman suffrage. Because, if Mr. Howard prefers party to principle where woman suffrage is concerned, what reason is there to suppose that other rank-and-file Liberal Members of Parliament will prove more steadfast?

In the second place, his Bill, instead of confusing the public mind (as official Liberalism intends), will enable us to make plain to the world that what we demand is votes for women on the same terms as men. If, however, this object is to be achieved, women suffragists must express in the plainest and most unmistakable way the fact that they do not support Mr. Howard's Bill. An amendment to the Bill, which precisely expresses the right point of view, stands in the name of Mr. Goulding, and is as follows:—

That the extension of the franchise to women now disqualified solely on account of sex should precede the consideration of the further changes proposed in this Bill.

It is hoped that there will be an opportunity for discussing this amendment next Friday, and that it will be carried.

There must be no faltering on the part of the woman suffrage army. We must adhere to the demand for votes on the same terms as men. The Government, when they ask us to alter this policy, are not acting in good faith. Not only must we be firm in our refusal to combine with woman suffrage proposals for widening the franchise but we must also resist the equally dangerous proposal to create anything in the nature of a fancy franchise for women. For example, it has been suggested "that a husband and wife living together shall be deemed to be joint occupiers where either of them would otherwise be the sole occupier." Those who understand present-day political conditions will realise that such a proposal is hardly less likely to wreck our movement than the proposals contained in Mr. Geoffrey Howard's Electoral Bill. In short, there is no reason why our original demand for the simple removal of the sex disability in matters of voting should be modified in the slightest degree and there are many and grave reasons why it should not be modified. The Women's Social and Political Union refuse to be turned aside from this, the one straight path to the attainment of their political end.

Christabel Pankhurst.

WHY I AM IN PRISON.

By Emmeline Pethick Lawrence.

Why I am in prison? Because the appointed way to the freedom of women lies through prison gates. Because the great evil of the present day is the helplessness of women, who are politically bound and gagged, because the greatest hope for humanity in the future is the release of the woman's soul and mind and body; because all my life has led me step by step to this action. It is the logical outcome of all that I have thought hitherto, all that I have felt and done.

When I was a child at school, I was profoundly stirred to sorrow and pity by George Eliot's story in "Adam Bede" of poor pretty Hetty Sorrel, and moved by that instinct of chivalry which belongs essentially to the childhood of the individual and the race, I made a passionate resolve that when I grew up I would put myself between the helpless and the wronged and the wicked and cruel world.

When I was a little older I was taken by my parents to see Irving's representation of Faust. It was the first time I had ever been inside a theatre. The story of Marguerite seemed to cut my heart. I have never lost the remembrance of the grief with which the sorrow of women came home to me that night. The last scene in the prison cell was real to me. How could men bear that such things could be?

A few years later, whilst still at school, I was awakened to the pitiful economic position of working girls by Sir Walter Besant's book "The Children of Gibeon." I made up my mind then. "As soon as I have done with school," I said to myself, "I will go to the East End" (a vague term of horror) "and I will give away, or rather I will share, all the things that have been given to me." These were times when I felt almost angry with the God that they preached about in church, for having made me a favourite. It seemed so utterly unfair.

When my education was complete, I kept the vow I had made as a child.

An Early Decision.

I did not go to anyone for help or advice, but made my decision and acted upon it. I wrote to Mrs. Price Hughes, of the West London Mission, and asked her to receive me into her sisterhood of social workers. She accepted me. And then I went to my parents, and told them what I felt. I have always thought it a mistake for anyone of full age and normal mentality to throw upon another the responsibility of settling whether or not a certain decision should be made or new step taken in life. The right thing is to make up one's own mind first, and afterwards to win, if possible, the approval and support of one's friends. I have always found that easy to win. My parents knew Mrs. Price Hughes, and were quite satisfied with the arrangement. They gave me their full approval and sympathy. They have always helped me by giving me not only freedom to live my life, but the abiding consciousness of their unwavering love and confidence.

In the West London Mission I gathered my first actual experience of life as it is lived by those who have to fight for existence. Little as I realised it at the time, I had set out on the direct road—to prison. My training in social work began the first night I arrived in London. I was given charge then and there of a working girls' club.

After four years of knowledge, experience, and training in the sisterhood, I left it in order to gain still more insight into the conditions of the people by living in their very midst. My friend Miss Neal and I took rooms in artisans' dwellings, and gathered round us a small colony of friends. By this time the names of both were well known in the London world of social reform. We were associated with many public schemes of social amelioration, and we entered specially into the life of our own district. We and those of our friends who had chosen to live simply, and give their leisure and their means to the service of their neighbours,

joined the municipal councils and the school management and school holiday committees. Miss Neal and I started a co-operative workroom for girls. In our workroom no overtime was allowed; a minimum wage of 15s. a week was secured to all girls over sixteen years of age. These and other social experiments succeeded, expanded, and gave rise to new developments, and sometimes we felt very satisfied with the result of our life of human fellowship and social service.

But at other times we were appalled by the tide of human misery that swept past our door. And when we thought of the future of these children and girls who belonged to the family circle which we had built up round us, we were often dismayed. For in all our work we were continually coming up against a blank wall. What could we do against the artificially-imposed helplessness of woman, as wage-earner, as wife, and as mother? How could we lift up our girls out of the morass of that moral, physical, and economic subjection arising from their condition of political and legal subjection?

We were baffled, too, by our own political helplessness. These ill-paid girls, these deserted and ill-used and overworked wives, these "sweated" widows, struggling to fulfil the duties of both parents!—never could we, who as women knew them and understood their needs as no men could understand them, never could we or any women come to their rescue. For we, too, were politically gagged and politically bound—the creatures of good or evil chance—as women, excluded from all part or lot in the evolution of social conditions, which are the effect of social legislation.

Out of that part of my life there stand out memories, some humorous, some joyful, and some infinitely tragic. I remember a little girl belonging to the Children's Happy Evening Club, who went mad with grief because her mother, who was a widow, had lost her work, and was in despair. The dread of being separated in the workhouse was upon the whole family. The child was taken to the asylum, crying "Poor, poor mother."

I remember a girl about twenty, alone in the world, earning a pittance as waitress in a tea-shop. She was a quiet, gentle creature, who made no complaint. All the greater was the shock when the girl put an end to her own life, leaving a little note, with the words "I am tired out."

These two cries still ring out at times in my memory with their terrible indictment against life as men have made it. They have led me, those voices and other voices, they have called me on to where I now am, in prison, and they will call me on to the victorious end of the great struggle which women are making to-day to free themselves from their fetters.

When Miss Neal and I lived our life together in an artisan dwelling amongst our working girls, we had already discarded the old idea of philanthropy. We wanted to pay our debts. That was all. To us had been given what had been denied to others. We wanted to make things a little more fair by going shares with them, not in material things only, but in the whole of the wonderful inheritance of life and joy and beauty.

A Hopeless Task.

But we recognised the fact that we were only making in a great wilderness a tiny garden, enclosed by the wall of human fellowship. As we saw more and more of the evil plight of women, we realised ever more clearly that nothing could really lift them out of it until the power had been put into their hands to help themselves.

"Political emancipation must precede social regeneration." There can be no real progress for humanity except that which is based upon freedom.

The Suffrage Society to which I belonged was paralysed by the same overwhelming sense of helplessness which seemed

to lie like a blight on all women's societies. What was the good of public meetings that came to nothing, of resolutions that were ignored, of petitions that went to fill waste-paper baskets? Women without the vote were politically powerless. Then why make a fuss about it? Better grin and bear it! That was the Suffrage Philosophy at that time.

The reason of this hopelessness was that the Suffragists in 1884 had accepted with submission and resignation their defeat at the hands of the Liberal Government.

The history of great struggles for freedom made in this and other countries during the nineteenth century had always attracted me, and I had learnt from history, and also from the teaching of great leaders, the secret of all successful reform movements—a fighting policy.

Mazzini, especially, was one of my teachers; he was never tired of exhorting his followers to educate and organise, but above all things to agitate; to agitate, because deeds have the power to move the human heart that no words possess!

The Suffrage Movement in 1884, when the Liberal Party played it false, and in spite of pledges, betrayed it, should there and then have adopted a fighting policy against the Liberal Government. Because the women-leaders of the time chose submission rather than revolt, their movement was practically defunct. But I did not at the time put two and two together, quite like this. I only felt vaguely that the suffrage movement was not a living thing. I felt the need of women's enfranchisement. I passionately desired it for the sake of a better humanity. But I did not see the way to get it.

My Marriage.

The next step in my life, and therefore the next step on the road to prison, was my marriage. The marriage itself made no abrupt change in my interests and my work, for there was a close similarity of thought and feeling between my husband and myself, and we had exactly the same sense that life was a debt to be paid to the community. Our union meant to me growth and development. It meant that my knowledge gathered from close contact with human people of all sorts and conditions was supplemented by the knowledge that is gathered from large, practical experience of matters of business and finance. It meant the union of the social outlook with the political. It meant greater opportunity for public service, greater scope for energy, and a firmer foothold in life from which to stretch out hands to the weak and worsted, whom, in my childhood, I had vowed to serve.

I found that my husband felt as strongly as I felt myself the need of action in the woman's movement if anything was going to be done to right the injustice and wrong of the present position. Words were utterly dead and useless now to stir the conventional conscience. He used to tell me that if I cared earnestly and passionately enough, I should find the way. But all was still dark in that direction.

Suddenly a light flashed out. News came of the arrest and imprisonment of Christabel Pankhurst and Annie Kenney. Here at last was action. It is true I was startled, and for the moment even shocked. Then I remembered the beginnings of the great reform movements whose history I had studied.

As soon as possible, I got into touch with Mrs. Pankhurst, her daughters Christabel and Sylvia, and Annie Kenney. They told me their political experience, and we discussed together these new militant methods which they had initiated. I was convinced that the woman's cause had at last found its inspired and appointed leaders.

Gone for ever now was the last vestige of the child's idea. To stand between "Hetty Sorrel" and the cruel world, to find work and wages and happiness for "Milenda" might be incidental to the day's round, but was quite inadequate as a life-work. "Henceforth," I said, "I will give all I have to the uplifting of womanhood." For you cannot save women one by one from an evil fate. You must put into the hand

of woman the power to break the bonds that hold her down as the subjected half of humanity, and render her the helpless victim of circumstances. That was my next step, not on the downward path, but on the upward slope to prison.

My First Imprisonment.

In fact, soon after that, I made a protest in the lobby of the House of Commons against the continued refusal to give women taxpayers representative rights, and I was sent to prison. I was not as strong then as I am in these days. In prison I became very ill, and felt at that time that I had no option but to yield to the will of the Committee of the Union, and the advice of the medical man sent by them, that I should be removed. My first imprisonment was a failure. It meant that for two or three months I was unable to do any work at all for the Women's Social and Political Union. But I knew that my opportunity would come again. The need would arise, and I should be ready for it when it came.

The need came on February 24. Every department for which I am responsible in the Union was in working order. Very gladly did I welcome the opportunity of entering into the front line again. If my imprisonment can help in any way to hasten the emancipation of women, and I know that every imprisonment hastens it, then I will gladly stay in prison as long as the Government dares to keep me there. That time is limited by the public opinion of the people of this country, which is becoming every day more educated and more enlightened upon this matter.

There are several answers which I might make to those who want to know why I went to prison. And all are true. I went to prison because the power that has shaped my whole life has led me there step by step. Only by turning away from that light which leads the soul through its earthly pilgrimage, only by refusing to heed the voice that says, "This is the way, walk thou in it," could I have escaped it. I went to prison with a will, because my reason, my knowledge of past history, and my experience of human life have taught me that for every new emancipation of the human race, for every new possession of truth, a great price has to be paid. I went to prison because I decided that freedom was worth fighting for. And prison is part of the battle-field.

If I had never felt the compulsion of sympathy and desire to help the weak, it is probable that other strong tendencies would have led me into the militant movement. The love of freedom has ever been a passion of my mind. Honour has ever been dear to me as life itself. Reverence for womanhood, a sense of its great latent potency, and its immense sacredness as the Keeper of the Keys of Destiny, has ever been to me a great inspiration.

We come back to the old starting point. I was born to take part in this great movement of the awakening of woman. For this I have lived and will live; for this I hope I should be ready to die, if there were need to do so. But happily there is no need in these days to forfeit life, which is so very very sweet to those who enjoy health, and love, and happiness, and the wealth of human fellowship. What a comparatively small sacrifice we in these times have to make for a great principle and conviction. We owe this immunity to our forefathers and foremothers, who faced death that we might be delivered from the extreme cruelties of tyrannical power. How can we pay to their memory a better tribute than by bearing our small share of the great ransom that has to be paid for freedom and for progress? I am in prison that future generations may enter upon an even greater inheritance of human dignity and human freedom.

(Mrs. Lawrence is not allowed to write in Holloway. The above article was composed just before her imprisonment.)

IN NEXT ISSUE, MARCH 19,

WILL BE AN ARTICLE BY

MISS ELIZABETH ROBINS,

— ON —

"The Signs of the Times."

TO E. P. L.

February 24, 1909.

Upborne on wings wrought fair of love and thought,
Fashioned in strength by those who work and wait,
Your steadfast spirit meets nor dreads the fate
Suffered of all who for the Right have fought.

Pass on, great woman soul, fearless and calm,
To that strange life which for a space must be
Shadowed and still, a hidden sanctuary,
Bearing its gift for you of peace and balm.

MABEL TUKE.

AT THE QUEEN'S HALL.

A large number of people were present on Monday last at the Queen's Hall weekly At Home of the Women's Social and Political Union. Miss Christabel Pankhurst, who took the chair, explained the position of the Union with regard to Mr. Geoffrey Howard's Bill, making it clear that the Union took no stock in the measure at all, and intended to continue its policy of fighting for the extension of the vote to women qualified as men are qualified to-day. Mrs. Pankhurst, who was received with cheers, told of the work that she had been doing in the bye-elections in Glasgow. Mr. Pethick Lawrence stated that he had been able to see his wife in Holloway, and that she was determined not merely to go through with her sentence to the end, but to come out ready and able to tackle the work which lay before her. A large number of promises were sent up for Self-denial Week, and a number of questions were put and answered.

MRS. DESPARD'S RELEASE.

By order of the Home Secretary Mrs. Despard was released from Holloway on Wednesday afternoon last week, on the ground of health. Speaking on Thursday evening at Caxton Hall, Mrs. Despard said that the release was so rapidly carried out that she was not allowed even to return to the infirmary, after her interview with the Governor, to bid farewell to her friends. The room in which she changed from prison dress to her own clothes was comfortably heated, and even her clothes were warmed. A wardress conducted her from the prison in a taxi-cab and paid her fare. In tones of the utmost indignation Mrs. Despard protested against the imprisonment of Mrs. Pethick Lawrence for two months, just twice the length of her own term, and added that she had no doubt the severity of the sentence was a result of the Albert Hall protest on December 5. In a Press interview Mrs. Despard stated:—"I am absolutely in excellent health; I have never been in better health in my life." Since her committal to Holloway Gaol, she continued, she had been placed in the hospital, although she protested that she was in perfect health. "The Governor," she added, "began to ask me about my health. I said it was perfectly good, and had never been better. He said he would like to sound me, and he did so. Then he tried to induce me to take the view that I had better leave the gaol. At a later interview he told me that he did not think prison suited me, and that he had written to the Home Secretary, and the latter had ordered my release."

THE CONSERVATIVE FRANCHISE ASSOCIATION.

At the At Home given by Lady Gort on Wednesday afternoon at 15, Grosvenor Gardens, which we announced in last week's issue, some very interesting speeches were delivered in furtherance of Woman Suffrage. Among those present were Lady Knightley of Fawsley (President of the Association), Lady Edward Spencer-Churchill, Lady Mosley, Lady E. Wyndham-Quinn, Lady Seton-Karr, the Hon. Mrs. Whiteside, and the Hon. Mrs. Wilkinson. Lady Castlereagh, one of the Vice-Presidents of the Association, occupied the chair, and said that in view of the fact that the Government were meditating introducing a Reform Bill which was to include adult suffrage she thought that their Association should endeavour to show that, in demanding the extension of the vote only for women who were duly qualified, and who, but for the sex disqualification, would already be in possession of a vote, they were not going against any of the accepted tenets of the Conservative and Unionist party. What the Association was struggling for was to remove the sex disability, and to extend the franchise to all duly qualified women on the same basis as that accorded to men. By granting the franchise to women on that basis a substantial barrier would be placed in front of those legislators who in the future might wish to bring in adult suffrage. To admit qualified women would give them those rights and privileges which, as British subjects and in view of their position, work, and influence in these days,

they had a right to expect. To work together and to help each other should be their aim.

It was noticeable that most of the speakers emphasised the industrial point of view. Mrs. M. L. Woods referred to Mr. John Burns's threat to interfere with women's labour; Mrs. Nevinston remarked that while men were "one penny in the labour market, women were two for three-halfpence"; and Miss Eva Gore-Booth spoke of the attempt now being made to interfere with the work of women florists.

THE ACTRESSES' FRANCHISE LEAGUE.

The next meeting for members will be at 3, Bedford Street Studios, on Tuesday, March 23, from 3 to 5. Madame Marie Brema will be in the chair, Mrs. Despard will be the speaker, and Miss Edith Craig the hostess. A meeting will be held on Friday, April 2, in the Grand Hall, Criterion, to which admission will be by invitation.

This, the youngest of the professional women's Franchise Leagues, is adding to its membership in the most encouraging way; over forty new members have, we are informed, been enrolled during the last week or so.

THE BYE-ELECTIONS

SOUTH EDINBURGH.

RESULT.

Mr. A. Dewar (Liberal)	8,185
Mr. Harold Cox (Conservative)	6,984
Majority	1,221

The figures at the last election were:—Arthur Dewar, K.C. (L.), 8,945; William C. Smith, K.C. (C.), 5,985. Majority, 2,960.

This enormous reduction in the Liberal candidate's majority can be definitely traced to the action of the W.S.P.U. in their strenuous opposition throughout the campaign and right up to the close of polling day, when the women were heartily cheered by the electors. As a direct result of the campaign, and in response to the request of residents in Dalry, a weekly At Home is being organised in this district from the headquarters at Edinburgh, and many promises of local help are forthcoming.

HAWICK BURGHS.

RESULT.

Sir John Barran (Liberal)	3,028
Mr. Mackinder (Conservative)	2,508
Majority	520

The figures at the last election were:—Rt. Hon. T. Shaw, K.C. (L.), 3,185; Sir A. Conan Doyle (C.), 2,444. Majority, 641.

Much the same may be said of Hawick Burghs, even though in this case the reduction was not so strikingly great. An unprecedented amount of interest has been roused in the women's fight for the vote, resulting in largely increased membership of the W.S.P.U., and new recruits have been found who will carry on the work in the three border towns. The proportion of women at the numerous meetings was very striking, and their readiness to understand the political situation has been described by the W.S.P.U.'s organiser in charge as "phenomenal." One incident of the campaign typifies the impression made by the workers: When at Galashiels the snow had to be cleared from the lorry before the women could mount it to address the waiting crowd, a man remarked, "Well, there must be something behind this movement when women will face open-air meetings this weather!"

"VOTES FOR WOMEN"—PROGRESS OF THE PAPER.

October, 1907.—Foundation of the paper by Mr. and Mrs. Pethick Lawrence, with a monthly issue of 12 pages at 3d. a copy.
November, 1907.—The paper increased to 16 pages. Circulation, 2,000 copies.
April 30th, 1908.—Weekly issue commenced. Circulation, 5,000.
May 21st, 1908.—Price of the paper reduced to 1d.
January 1st, 1909.—Mr. and Mrs. Pethick Lawrence hand over the paper to the Women's Social and Political Union, which thereafter becomes the proprietors.
February 11th, 1909.—Paper increased from 16 to 24 pages.
February 26th, 1909.—Circulation reaches 16,000 copies a week.
March 12th to 19th.—Special VOTES FOR WOMEN week.

Established 1851. **BIRKBECK BANK.** Established 1851.
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C. F. RAVESCROFT, Secretary.

THE CAMPAIGN THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY.

LONDON AND HOME COUNTIES.

Office: 4, Clements Inn, W.C.

If the Government is still under the delusion that by shutting up one of our leaders and some of the most active workers they are going to suppress our activities we can show them by ocular demonstration there never was a greater mistake! Since our Hon. Treasurer's arrest and imprisonment the movement has increased by leaps and bounds. This week we are able to inform our readers that the organisation of both indoor and outdoor meetings in London and the Home Counties alone has increased so enormously that it has been necessary to appoint a secretary for this part of the work. Miss Cameron has been selected for the post, and all communications should be addressed to her at 4, Clements Inn. We hope shortly to arrange for open-air meetings to be held in all the principal parks on Sundays; we get such excellent results from these meetings that no opportunity must be lost of holding them when possible. A typical Sunday meeting was held on Sunday last on Hampstead Heath, when Mrs. Mosen and Miss Vera Helme spoke, and a large number of copies of *VOTES FOR WOMEN* was disposed of. We want more of these meetings as the weather improves.

During the coming week all our energies will be directed towards the special *VOTES FOR WOMEN* campaign (particulars of which appeared in last week's *VOTES FOR WOMEN*). Women are urgently needed every day at the office for this work, as there is much to be done in the way of advertising. Will those willing to help call at 4, Clements Inn, at 10.30 in the morning, and ask for Mrs. Drummond. Helpers are especially needed between the hours of 12 and 1 and 2 and 3 for a new scheme of advertisement. Come and see us, and we will set you to work! A letter has been sent to all the local literature secretaries, detailing schemes for pushing the sale of the paper, and asking what each is prepared to do. Replies to this are coming in rapidly.

The next events of which we want to remind our members are (1) the procession from Holloway on March 24, when we shall hope to see members and friends in large numbers; and (2) the dinner, at 7.30 on the evening of the same day, at the Inns of Court Hotel. For particulars see Announcements (p. 421). Then we must again ask our members to look upon attendance at one or other of the London At-Homes as part of the duty they owe to the Union; and another announcement, which will be further elaborated next week, concerns a new *Suffragette coat*, which is being made by Mr. Charles Lee, who will give an illustration of it in next week's *VOTES FOR WOMEN*. This is a long coat of original design, made in purple, green, or white, of face-cloth, serge or blanket cloth. The price will be moderate, and we hope our members will wear it in processions and on official occasions.

We have received a number of names in response to our appeal for carrying out the special scheme for Mrs. Lawrence's release on April 16. There are, however, still some vacancies, and we shall be glad to have at once the names of those intending to take part. Three evenings a week are devoted to practising, and it is desirable to give some time during the day also.

Wood Green and Bowes Park.—The campaign in these districts is now in full swing. Committee-rooms have been taken at 354, High Road, Wood Green, and a meeting has been arranged to take place at the Avondale Hall, Palmers Green, on March 22, at eight o'clock, at which Miss O. Pankhurst and Mrs. Massy are to speak. Tickets, 2s., 1s., and 6d., can be obtained from Miss Corson at the Committee Rooms, and from Mrs. Neal, 63, Goring Road, Bowes Park. Will those willing to help apply to Miss Corson.

Acton and Ealing.—Miss Law and Miss W. Dunlop are working up these districts. The Montague Rooms (next door to Ealing Hippodrome) have been taken for a public meeting on March 26. The chair will be taken by Miss Wallace Dunlop, and the speakers will be Miss Christabel Pankhurst and Miss I. Seymour. Committee Rooms will be opened on Saturday at 11, Bond Street, Ealing.

Croydon.—The work in Croydon is going on well. Miss McLelland is in charge of the Committee Rooms at 46, High Street. A meeting is to be held at the Public Hall on Friday, March 26, at which Mr. Pethick Lawrence is to be the speaker; and Miss H. Lightman will be in the chair. Tickets and all information can be had from Miss McLelland at the Committee Rooms.

Wanted.

Riders are still wanted to join the special corps of horsewomen which is being formed. Those able to help in this way should apply to Mrs. Drummond, 4, Clements Inn. Our second want is quite a different one: Has any member a sewing machine which

she is prepared to give to the W.S.P.U.? This is needed for all kinds of work, notably flag-making; and Mrs. Knight, who is in charge of this department, asks me to appeal for it as a gift to the Union, by means of which a large amount of time and labour may be saved.

FLORA DRUMMOND.

WEST OF ENGLAND.

Shop and Committee Rooms.—33, Queen's Road (opposite Art Gallery) Clifton. Open from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.

At Homes.—Bristol: Victoria Rooms, every Monday, 3.30 to 5.30.

Stokes Croft: Assembly Rooms, meeting every Friday, 8 p.m.

Bath: Bean Nash Rooms, every Saturday, 3.30.

Important Event.—Lecture by Miss Elizabeth Robins, Victoria Rooms, April 1, 8 o'clock, "Shall Women Work?" Tickets 2s., 1s., and 6d.

Though it is such a short time since we opened the campaign here, we have already outgrown our premises, and are removing to No. 37. We are also hoping to engage a secretary, the growth of our office work making such assistance essential. Two important events loom ahead: the reception to our two brave comrades—Miss Mary Allen and Miss Pittman—on their release from Holloway; and, on April 1, the lecture by Miss Elizabeth Robins in the Victoria Rooms on "Shall Women Work?" which was such a brilliant success in London recently. Tickets are ready, price 2s. (reserved), 1s., and 6d. (unreserved).

Self-denial has been our watchword during the past week, and neither the Arctic weather nor anything else has deterred the members here from their efforts to make it a great success. On two evenings we had a lantern procession through the principal Bristol streets, *VOTES FOR WOMEN* being sold and a collection taken *en route*. Collections were also made at various points in the city, and various other schemes have been on foot.

Will helpers please come to 33, Queen's Road, on Saturday at 11 a.m. and 2 p.m.? Every day next week we want members and friends to come as often as possible, and to sell the paper at all the theatres and concerts, as well as in the principal streets. This is in connection with the special *VOTES FOR WOMEN* week.

Bath.—I am glad to be able to report good progress here, and that it has been decided to open a shop as soon as arrangements can be made. We had an excellent meeting at the Assembly Rooms on Saturday.

Penzance.—Miss Mary Howey and others are organising the big meeting for Friday (12th), and two open-air meetings on Saturday (13th), as well as a drawing-room meeting, and we are hoping to form a committee to keep the flag flying.

I want to make a strong appeal for financial help from West of England supporters.—Much work has to be done during the next few months, and money is urgently needed. Please send to my private address, Eagle House, Batheaston, Bath. (Please note change.) Since my last financial report I have sent to the Treasurer:—February 22, £12 16s. 2d.; February 23, £2 6s.; February 27, £1 5s.; March 2, £2 9s. 4d.; Miss Churchill (collecting card), 10s.; Bath collection February 6, £2 3s. 4d.; Victoria Rooms collection, £1 3s. 4d.; Weston-super-Mare collection, £1 13s. 6d.; Miss Groom, 5s.

I must not omit to mention what a pleasure Mrs. Eates' visit has been; her address at the Monday At Home was greatly appreciated. A report of Mr. Birrell's visit to Bristol will be found on page 424.

I have received the following from Miss Elsie Howey:—

Plymouth and Torquay.

At Homes.—Plymouth: Royal Hotel, first Friday in every month, 4 to 6 p.m.
Torquay: Swiss Café, Victoria Parade, second and fourth Thursday, 4 to 6 p.m.
Paignton: Gerston Hotel, second Tuesday in month, 3 to 5 p.m.

A members' meeting was held in the Swiss Café on Monday, at which plans for the Exhibition were discussed. Mrs. Marshall Stevens, Miss Latimer (of Torquay), and Mrs. Smith (of Paignton) each promised £5 5s. towards the Torquay stall. Sister Marie and Sister Hollis and Mrs. Boase promised £2 10s. each, and many other promises were handed in. It was also decided to start a fund for advertising our meetings in the local papers, and Sister Marie kindly promised to undertake the work in connection with this; subscriptions were given by some of the members present. An open-air meeting was held at Dartmouth on Wednesday, a large crowd assembling, and many copies of *VOTES FOR WOMEN* were sold. Our paper selling in the streets continues to meet with great success, and the sellers are much encouraged by the cheering remarks made by purchasers. We shall open our shop on March 24. Most of the furniture is being given by local members. I want promises of help to look after the shop, so that I may be quite free for organising. Will anyone who can help in this way write to me at "Ardath," Osney Crescent, Paignton. Mrs. Boase has kindly promised to write and send round to the principal residents of Torquay a letter, telling about our meetings and shop, etc. More helpers are needed to make our work as thorough and as effective as possible.

The following is from Miss Vera Wentworth, Weston-super-Mare:—I am able to report that the Town Hall meeting in Bridgwater was a great success. Many people were clamouring for admission long after the hall was quite filled. Miss S. Strangways paid all the expenses of the meeting, so that the collection was a clear profit to the Union. On Monday a dinner-hour meeting was held for the men employed in the carriage works. They were keenly interested, and women came out of their houses to listen to the speeches. A meeting was held on Corn Hill, Bridgwater, on Monday evening, and though many people came to make a disturbance they were so interested that they refrained from doing so. Help for our stall at the Exhibition in May is urgently needed. Will friends and members willing to help in any way write to me at Clarence House, Victoria Square, Weston-super-Mare.

LANCASHIRE.

Headquarters.—Manchester, 164, Oxford Road.

Local Offices.—Preston, 41, Glover's Court.

Rochdale, 34, Yorkshire Street.

At Homes.—Manchester: Onward Buildings, Deansgate, Fridays, 8–10.
Liverpool: Engineers' Rooms, 48, Mt. Pleasant, Tuesdays, 3–5, 8–10.
Preston: Glover's Court, Wednesdays, 7.30 p.m.

Rochdale: 34, Yorkshire Street, Wednesdays, 7.30 p.m.

Important Events.—Mrs. Pankhurst's Tour.

Thursday, March 18, Town Hall, Rochdale, 8 p.m.—Friday, March 19, Sun Hall, Kensington, Liverpool, 8 p.m.—Saturday, March 20, Southport, 3–5 p.m.—Monday, March 22, Public Hall, Preston, 8 p.m.—Wednesday, March 24, Free Trade Hall, Manchester, 8 p.m.

No greater proof could possibly be required of the popular demand for Votes for Women than the extension of our work week by week. This week we have to chronicle great developments in Liverpool, where Miss Mary Phillips is at work.

Manchester.—In addition to the many Self-denial activities all the week, we have again experienced a very busy time from the propaganda point of view. Beginning with Monday, a crowded audience met at St. Clements, Urmston, under the auspices of the debating society, and although I had been warned that we should find a large "anti-Suffragist" element in this quarter, there was no doubt whatever that the Suffragist case carried the day. On Wednesday members considered further ways of developing Self-denial ideas, and in face of the blizzard, practically with us all the week, made arrangements for flower selling on the following Saturday. By the generosity of Mr. Warburton, a local sympathiser, a case of oranges for sale, in addition to the flowers, was put at our disposal. On Thursday I spoke to a representative audience of Suffragists and friends in the Temperance Rooms at Sale, and at a meeting organised by the Moss Side Corps. This was in every way successful, and the corps is to be congratulated on its first effort. Miss Dora Marsden was in the chair. Mrs. Orchard, West Didsbury, organised a splendid drawing-room meeting at 143, Barlow Moor Road, on Friday. The room was packed, and after speaking especially on the tactics, I was delighted to find so many thoroughly interested in the cause. As one practical result, Canon Ford, who was present, offered me the use of his schoolroom for a public meeting at an early date. We are very grateful to Mrs. Orchard and Canon Ford. The usual Friday At Home was presided over by Miss Fitzsimons, and Mrs. Bouvier, as our guest of the evening, made a capital speech on why she justified the militant tactics.

Members and friends of the movement in Manchester and District are reminded that Mrs. Pankhurst's forthcoming visit is close upon us, and that it is incumbent upon everyone to push the sale of tickets. These are 2s. 6d. (reserved and numbered), 1s. (reserved), and 6d. (unreserved), and further applications may be made direct to the Ticket Secretary at the Manchester office. We hope to arrange a preliminary parade on Saturday the 13th, and another on a more impressive scale still on the following Saturday, the 20th inst. "Many hands make light work." Members will please take this gentle hint!

Liverpool.—Such a hearty welcome to Miss Mary Phillips, who for the present will represent the Union there. Although the storm raged outside, a friendly gathering of members met her at the first afternoon At Home at 48, Mount Pleasant, on Tuesday, and in the evening she was formally introduced to the general gathering at the usual evening At Home.

Miss Phillips reports that on Friday the members endeavoured to help the Self-denial Fund by playing a hand-organ in the streets, but so great was the anxiety of the people to hear the music that the traffic was impeded, and the police had to move them on. They therefore decided to give them a speech instead, and Miss Phillips addressed a very large and extremely attentive audience from the plinth of the Wellington Column.

As the time is short before the next meeting much remains to be done. Tickets and bills are now out everywhere, and the prices, as in Manchester, are 2s. 6d., 1s., and 6d. Seats may be booked at Messrs. Rushworth and Dreapers, 21, Basnett Street, and further supplies of tickets for members' sales should be obtained from Miss

Ellam, 48, Roscommon Street, who has consented to be Ticket Secretary for this meeting. Will members please note that until further orders every Tuesday afternoon and evening At Homes will be held as notified at the head of this column, and all are urged to make them as representative as possible—i.e., to get those to come in the afternoon who cannot come in the evening, so that an ever-increasing circle of members may be gained. Miss Phillips' address *pro tem.* is 36, Oxford Street, and volunteers for the advertising parade, which she wishes to arrange for Saturday next, must please communicate with her direct.

Rochdale.—I am glad to be able to confirm Thursday, March 18, for the Rochdale Town Hall meeting. The prices of tickets are 1s., 6d., and 3d., with a very few reserved and numbered seats at 2s. 6d., and Miss Florence Clarkson, as Ticket Secretary, will be glad to supply all members who live in the district on application to her at 34, Yorkshire Street. Mrs. Pankhurst will on this occasion visit Rochdale for the first time for many months, and we must have a crowded Town Hall. The Rochdale members' At Homes will now take place on Saturdays at 7.30 p.m., whilst business and members' meetings will take place on Wednesdays at 7.30 p.m.

Preston.—Mrs. Bouvier and Miss Capper are arranging for the Public Hall meeting on Monday, March 22. Tickets, of all members, are 2s. 6d., 1s., and 6d. The 2s. 6d. (numbered and reserved) may be booked at Messrs. Norwood and Sons, 85, Fishergate, Preston. For the present the headquarters will be at the local offices; and inquiries as to tickets and offers of help should be addressed to Mrs. Bouvier or Miss Capper there.

Southport.—At Homes are held here every Saturday afternoon, under the energetic management of Miss O'Sullivan. A stall at the Exhibition has been undertaken, and Miss Miller appointed Bazaar Secretary. The cost of the room for At Homes was guaranteed weekly by several members last Saturday, and the proceeds of a sale of jam handed over to the Self-denial Fund. Inquirers in Southport district should put themselves into communication with Miss O'Sullivan at 6, Park Road.

Financial Report.—This week I send to the Treasurer the following sums:—Miss E. Harrop, Dobcross, £1; per Miss A. Hines and Miss L. Fildes, 5s.; Miss Mary Firth, Mossley, 1s.; "A. K.," 1s.; Miss Annie Lee, Liscard (2s. on membership card), 1s.; collection at At Home, 8s. 9d.; total, £1 16s. 9d.

Mary E. Gawthorpe.

MIDLANDS.

Offices and Committee Rooms: 14, Ethel Street, Birmingham.

At Homes.—Birmingham: Midland Hotel, Wednesday, 3.30.

Priory Rooms, Old Square, Wednesday, 7.30.

Wolverhampton: St. Peter's Institute, Wednesday, 7.30.

Important Events.—Coventry: Baths Assembly Rooms, March 16.

Mrs. Pankhurst.

Birmingham: Reception, Midland Hotel, 3.30, March 17. Mrs. Pankhurst.

Priory Rooms, 7.30, March 17.

Our progress in the Midlands continues to be most encouraging—we go ahead by leaps and bounds. The At Home at the Midland Hotel was an unqualified success, and Lady Isabel Margesson's address was very much enjoyed. If the attendance increases we shall again have to move into a larger room: Miss Jennings has arranged a whist drive for March 27 (proceeds for Self-denial Funds), at Hughes', Great Western Arcade; tickets, 2s. single, 3s. 6d. double, refreshments included. Only 120 will be issued; early application should therefore be made.

Mrs. Pankhurst will speak at our usual evening At Home in the Priory Rooms, on Wednesday, 17th (not Tuesday, 16th). Owing to the limited room, members will receive cards first; disappointed friends will be able to hear Mrs. Pankhurst at a public meeting later on. Miss Joan Crombie has promised 10s. a week for six months towards an Organiser Fund.

Glinton College, Cambridge.—I found, on my week-end visit here, that the Antis had been invaluable in paving the way. While they have 28 members, the Suffrage Society has close upon 100. Miss Jones and all the staff are in our favour. The keenest interest was shown in my address, and the same interest and enthusiasm is displayed by Newnham College.

Coventry.—Arrangements for the meeting in the Baths Assembly Room are completed; tickets from Miss Lea, 25, Queen's Road, Coventry. Mrs. Ryce, Gosford Green, will be very pleased to receive promises of articles for the Exhibition Stall.

Sparkbrook.—Miss Saxelby is organising a meeting in the Sparkbrook Council Schools on March 29. Miss Jennings and myself will be the speakers, and Miss Saxelby will preside.

Handsworth.—Miss Eastgate is organising a meeting in the Westminster Road Council Schools, Miss Jennings in the chair, with Dr. Helena Jones and Miss Hazel as speakers. Meetings are also being organised in Malvern (March 18) and Stechford (March 29).

I am forwarding the Treasurer:—1s. 6d., Miss Ida Rabuett;

£1 1s. lecture fee; £1 10s. collection. All communications should be addressed to me at 49, Bristol Street, Birmingham.

Gladice G. Keevil.

YORKSHIRE.

Headquarters.—Bradford: 51, Manningham Lane.

At Homes.—Leeds: Arts Club, Blenheim Terrace, Woodhouse Lane, Wed. 8 p.m.

Important Events.—Leeds: Coliseum, Miss C. Pankhurst, Thursday, March 18, at 8 p.m.
Bradford: St. George's Hall, Miss C. Pankhurst, Wednesday, April 7, at 8 p.m.

Everyone will be glad to hear that Miss Christabel Pankhurst is coming to Yorkshire after all. The Leeds meeting will be two days later than previously arranged, namely, on Thursday, March 25, and the Bradford one a fortnight later, Wednesday, April 7. Fresh handbills are ready, and they must be distributed at theatre queues and to audiences leaving all the concerts and meetings in Leeds. We must make the Coliseum meeting a credit to the Leeds members; therefore, work, and work your hardest, all of you! On Saturdays, 13th and 20th, we hope to have a number of open-air meetings in Leeds and Bradford, and to dispose of a large number of VOTES FOR WOMEN. I want names of paper-sellers at once for the special campaign during the VOTES FOR WOMEN week.

Mrs. Clarke speaks on Saturday (13th) in the Leeds Arts Club; on Monday (15th) in the Somerset Parlour, Bradford; and on Wednesday (17th), Parochial Hall, Huddersfield; all at 8 p.m. Admission free. The next workers' meeting in Bradford will be on Monday (22nd), at 8 p.m., in the office. There will be a workers' meeting in the Arts Club, Leeds, on Wednesday (17th), at 8 p.m. prompt. Please put everything aside in order to be present.

C. A. L. Marsh.

NEWCASTLE.

Headquarters.—38, Rye Hill.

At Homes.—Crosby's Café, Northumberland Street, Wednesdays, 5-5 and 8-10.

It is most encouraging to report that as a result of Mrs. Pankhurst's appeal for Self-denial funds at the Town Hall meeting on Monday week the collection amounted to £5, and that many converts were made as a direct outcome of the attempt on the part of some rowdy boys to break up our meeting. People who had come to the meeting to criticise and oppose told several of our members afterwards that Mrs. Pankhurst's speech and the behaviour of these irresponsible youths made them realise the necessity for Votes for Women. Previous to the meeting there was a crowded and brilliant reception at the Westgate Assembly Rooms, given by Mrs. Taylor and the Hon. Mrs. Parsons, when Newcastle warmly welcomed Mrs. Pankhurst to the town. Mrs. Taylor took the chair, and Miss Parsons and Mrs. Clark gave interesting addresses. Miss Parsons sold beautiful Arum lilies for the Self-denial fund and 5s. 6d. was realised; 3s. 4d. worth of literature was sold, and a good collection was taken. The evening At Home was well attended and very animated. Several of the young men who had made themselves so objectionable at the Town Hall came, and applauded the speeches by Mrs. Clark, Mrs. Atkinson, and myself, particularly our remarks on their own and their friends' behaviour at the meeting, and made amends for it by buying literature and ties, and contributing to the collection. The sale of literature realised 8s. 6d. My appeal, *re* Self-denial, resulted in five members promising to give 1s. for each week of Mrs. Pethick Lawrence's imprisonment, and three members promised 3d. for each week. One lady volunteered to sell flowers in the street, and a gentleman in the audience promised to give the flowers. I have sent to the Treasurer £16 12s. ticket money; £3 14s. 2d. collection, and £1 10s. 7d. literature. This is not complete, as Miss New has come to add.

J. A. Bouvier.

SCOTLAND.

Glasgow.

Office: 141, Bath Street.

At Homes.—141, Bath Street, Thursday, 8 p.m.
Charing Cross Hall, Saturday, 3 p.m.

The magnificent result of the bye-election here has given us the greatest encouragement to go forward. We were very fortunate in having a visit from Miss Christabel Pankhurst, and in having Mrs. Pankhurst in Glasgow for a greater length of time than circumstances enabled her to give to the other constituencies. We had also splendid workers in Mrs. Leigh, Miss Cameron, and Miss Ayrton. Only those who were here all the time know how much was owing to their unfailing spirit and energy. Flying visits from other bye-election workers were a great assistance, and we cannot too warmly express our appreciation of the help rendered by the local members in the shape of speaking, chalking, selling literature, advertising meetings, providing hospitality, raising funds, taking charge of committee rooms, etc. No branch of work for which an

appeal was made was left without response. The Athenaeum meeting on the night of polling day was an eloquent testimony to the interest roused by our demand. Long before the time the hall was crowded to the doors. The enthusiasm displayed at our Saturday At Home was most cheering; Mrs. John Hunter took the chair, and Dr. Marion Gilchrist spoke on "The Militant Woman." The hall was filled to its utmost capacity. We hope to have visits from Miss Joachim and Miss Brackenbury before they leave Scotland.

Paisley.—A public meeting will be held in the new hall of the Y.M.C.A. on Monday, March 29, at 8 p.m.; speakers: Miss Evelyn Sharp and myself. Tickets, price 1s., 6d., and 3d., may be obtained from Miss Jean Bow, Dunscore, Paisley; Messrs. Paterson, music sellers, Gilmour Street; and from 141, Bath Street. All wishing to help in selling tickets, distributing bills, and making this meeting known, are asked to communicate with Miss Bow or with me.

G. M. Conolan.

Edinburgh.

Shop: 100, Hanover Street, Workers' Meeting, Mondays, 8 p.m.

At Homes.—24, Shandwick Place, Wednesdays, 4 p.m.

Society of Arts, 117, George Street, Thursdays, 8.30.

Tremendous enthusiasm has been roused here by Mrs. Pankhurst's meeting in the Synod Hall on Friday, a report of which appears elsewhere. The immense success of the meeting was largely owing to the splendid advertising procession provided by Mrs. Willock, Miss Joachim, and Miss Allen, who drove and rode for hours in the bitter cold up and down Prince's Street on the last two days. The interest felt in Edinburgh in the subject of Votes for Women is greater than ever. At a shop where tickets for concerts and other entertainments are usually sold we were informed that they could now sell nothing but tickets for Suffrage meetings.

Now that the excitement of the bye-election and of our great meeting is over, friends will like to know that we are continuing our Thursday afternoon At Homes at 117, George Street, and we want all our workers to do their best to make them very successful. Our Thursday evening At Homes for those who cannot come in the afternoon are also going on at the Marshall Street Hall. Tea at eight p.m. will be followed by speeches and an informal discussion on the question of Women's Suffrage.

On Monday, 8th, Miss Marie Brackenbury is to address a drawing-room meeting arranged by Mrs. Pitman. These meetings are of great service to the cause, and we are very grateful to those workers who kindly undertake them. I shall be very glad to hear from anyone who feels that she can do this kind of propaganda work.

I have also to acknowledge a donation of £1 from "A Friend,"
F. E. M. Macaulay.

Aberdeen.

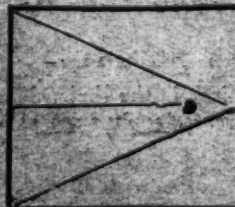
Office: Crown Mansions, 41½ Union Street.

At Homes.—Crown Mansions, 41½ Union Street, first Wednesday in every month at 5 p.m.; every Wednesday at 3 and 8 p.m.

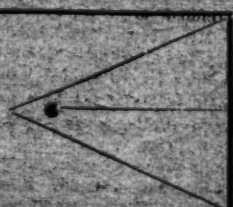
Not content with the splendid progress we are making here, I hope to go still further North and break entirely fresh ground in Inverness, keeping Aberdeen as headquarters. Will Scottish members who have friends up North let me have their names, so that I may call on them? Please address at Aberdeen. Mrs. Pankhurst's meeting on Friday, in the Music Hall, was the greatest possible encouragement to the workers here; her speech and that of Mrs. Clark were full of inspiration to us to go on in the fight. Our announcement of the meeting by a gaily decorated brake in the colours of the Union caused quite a sensation, and a crowd followed us through the streets. Last week I appealed for names and suggestions from those who are going to help us with the Exhibition, and now that Mrs. Pankhurst's meeting and Self-denial Week are over we must start in good earnest to make a good show of work from Aberdeen. One lady has promised me 30s. worth of fancy things, and another 15s. or £1 worth of sweets; what about shortbread? I know this is very popular with both Londoners and Americans. Will all members come prepared with plans and suggestions at our next At Home (the 17th) at the very latest. I am sending to the Treasurer this week £2 2s. 7d., taken at our meeting in collection; also "Anon." 7s. 6d. (donation towards heavy advertising expenses); Miss Dawson (donation), 4s. 6d.; and 2s. taken at Wednesday's meeting.

Will any lady who is willing to give a drawing-room meeting communicate with me, when I shall be delighted to send a speaker, and to get others interested in the movement. The Speakers' Class is held every Friday at 7.30; all are invited to join this. Will workers come forward and help to sell our paper in the street and outside the theatre during VOTES FOR WOMEN week?

S. Ada Flatman.



MRS.
OLIVER,
115, NEW BOND STREET, W.
DRESSES. COSTUMES. HATS.



LOCAL NOTES.

Brighton and Hove W.S.P.U.—At a committee meeting on Thursday, March 4, we decided, if our Secretary could get up a guarantee fund, to pay for hire of the Dome. We have a meeting there the end of this month. On Friday, March 5, Miss Hare held a social evening at her house for members and friends, and at their special request gave a brief history of the Brighton Union which was much appreciated. Miss Hare made an appeal for guarantee fund for hire of Dome, which resulted in promises for the amount almost immediately, and Friday, March 26, was the date fixed upon as most suitable for the meeting. Our next meeting will be held at our new offices, 6, North Street, Quadrant, on Friday, March 12, at 6 p.m. This meeting will be the first in our new offices, and we hope all members will make a point of being present. Our thanks are due to Mrs. Cobb, who has generously supplied us with linoleum for the floor of office; Miss H. S. Clarke, who has presented us with two leather-covered chairs, table, &c.; and an anonymous friend, who gave us twelve chairs. Miss Davies, 80, King's Road, Secretary Work Stall, Women's Exhibition, is already getting supplies of goods and fancy work. Will more helpers come forward and promise, and others help to make up articles? We shall have work parties at the office shortly for this purpose. Will all who are willing to act as stewards at the meeting, March 26, help the advertising corps, or in office work, send in offers at once to secretary, 200, Preston Drive. I. G. MCKEOWN.

Chelsea W.S.P.U.—On Saturday, March 7, a drawing-room meeting was arranged by Miss Dorothy Bonavia Hunt at the Vicarage, Burgess Hill, Sussex. Mrs. Hunt kindly placed her drawing-room at their disposal, and the W.S.P.U. sent down Mrs. Mansell Moullin as speaker. In spite of the dreadful weather the meeting was quite a success, thirty ladies and four men braving the elements. Miss Carey opened the proceedings with a Suffragette song, and Mrs. Carey followed with a recitation called "A Woman's Place." Mrs. Moullin, who was listened to with great interest, gave the A B C of the movement, and explained the militant methods. At the end of the meeting a collection was made for Self-denial Fund. We wish to call especial attention to this meeting, because we think it is one way in which members who have friends in the country can extend our Union. We hope to make a complete success of VOTES FOR WOMEN Week, which begins on March 12. Miss Webb, 103, Elm Park Mansions, will be glad of the names of volunteers for this work. Members who have any time at their disposal should send in their names at once, so that we can plan out the work for the week. We are now taking orders for hand-knitted silk ties and children's smocks, copied from the Sussex shepherd's smocks, which have been worn for generations on the Downs. They are made in Harris linen—purple, white, or green—and will be on view at our Exhibition committee meeting on Wednesday evenings at 8.30, at 93, Oakley Street. CHARLOTTE BLACKLOCK.

Chiswick W.S.P.U.—Notwithstanding the weather on Wednesday, March 3, we had a good show of friends at our monthly At Home. Mrs. Henry gave us a very interesting address. The members have been making various efforts for Self-denial Week, some collecting at stations, others visiting, others selling marmalade, and still others having a whist drive. As there have been several meetings held by other societies, the subject of women's enfranchisement in Chiswick has been kept well before the public. During VOTES FOR WOMEN Week we have arranged for selling each day on the High Road, and several people have promised to show the tri-colour. We have occasional open-air meetings on the High Road, and chalking for special occasions. The making of useful articles at our sewing meetings is going on. We hope to have a good show by May 13. M. COOMBS.

Hammersmith W.S.P.U.—I should like to call the attention of Hammersmith friends to our weekly sewing parties, held at Mrs. Maund's, 8, Edith Road, West Kensington, from 3 to 6 on Fridays. We welcome everyone who can sew and help us to make up the materials we are collecting, either there or at their own homes. Gifts of materials of any kind are also gladly accepted. With the kind help of friends outside the district we have been able to organise collections at the principal railway stations, as far as the weather would allow. As a special effort to raise funds for the N.W.S.P.U., a limelight lecture on "Mountaineering" has been arranged in West Kensington, and tickets are selling well. F. E. ROWE.

Hendon W.S.P.U.—Our members have been doing all they could for Self-denial Week, making use both of cards and boxes. We hope to have a good sum to hand over. Miss Dorothy Allman made and sent up some sweets of various kinds. We hope that all local sympathisers who can manage it will be present at the dinner at the Inn of Court Hotel, March 24, at 7.30, to welcome Mrs. Fahey and the other prisoners. Tickets (2s. 6d.) should be applied for at once. The concert in aid of the Exhibition funds is definitely fixed for March 17; tickets are 1s. and 6d. We want this to be well patronised. Miss Olive Powell and the Misses Wyatt are among those who are giving their services. Our members at present number twenty-five. We are anxious to raise this number to thirty at least by the time Mrs. Fahey returns from Holloway. Let us all try and bring those who are known to sympathise with our cause to the point of giving in their names as members. To present such people with copies of VOTES FOR WOMEN is a plan which often succeeds in bringing them to the turning-point. We have doubled our order for the paper at Mr. Gill's, in Brent Street, for March 12. Will all our members buy as many extra copies as they think they can dispose of, and so join in the campaign of increasing the circulation of our paper? FRANCES V. CREAYTON.

Hornsey W.S.P.U.—All members are earnestly asked to come to the meeting at "Ye China Cup," Park Road, on Friday, March 12, so that they may co-operate in our local campaign in connection with VOTES FOR WOMEN Week. There is much and varied work to be done. Moreover, Mrs. Bates has kindly promised to speak to us. THEODORA HOYWICK.

Hull W.S.P.U.—On March 4 an At Home given by members was well attended, and several new members joined. The musical portion, undertaken by Mr. Henningham, assisted by Mr. Bates, was very much appreciated. Mrs. Marshall presided. "Militant Tactics" was the subject of the lecture given by myself. An appeal was made to those present to take some part, however small, in the great Exhibition to be held in May. Other members who contributed to the success of the evening were Mrs. Scorch, Mrs. Salvadge, Miss Odell, Miss Theresa Little, and Miss G. Anderson, and Miss Elsie Smith, who kindly undertook the literature stall. The collection is to be for Self-denial Week Fund—1s. 2d. Hull has not forgotten that one of our Editors is in prison, and in recognition of her self-sacrifice and in reply to her letter, efforts

of a special nature have been made to advertise "our" paper. During the week one enthusiastic member bought several copies, and sold in the street by means of newshaws; and on Saturday, March 6, in spite of bad weather, Miss Elsie Smith and I stationed ourselves outside the football ground and disposed of about fifty copies of VOTES FOR WOMEN. Our leader in prison would be cheered to know that her letter has spurred us on in our work in Hull. M. HARRISON.

Kensington W.S.P.U.—Despite the weather, we have carried out our Self-denial Week programme, and, though the cold and snow kept people indoors, our members spared no effort to raise money for the great fund. We are specially proud of our band of collectors, not one of whom failed us. Each day eighteen were employed, and through all the snow and sleet they stood at their posts and gained the respect and admiration of all who saw them. Miss Gibbs sold sweets and postcards in the streets, and Miss Postlethwaite earned some money and interested many by her pavement sketches. This week is to be devoted to canvassing North Kensington to arouse interest in the Ladbroke Hall meeting on March 19, which Miss Christabel Pankhurst will address. Miss Boyd, Miss Lawes, and Miss Bidwell have begun work, and we hope to have many more canvassers next week. Mrs. Arundel Smith, of Elgin Crescent, arranged a drawing-room meeting for us on March 2, and Mrs. J. S. Brown has taken the Mall Hall for March 13, when Miss Evelyn Sharp will speak. We should like other meetings in North Kensington and Baywater before March 19, and beg that hostesses who can arrange them will communicate with us at 143, Church Street. For VOTES FOR WOMEN Week we are canvassing all shops in the main thoroughfares to get permission to hang out banners and flags advertising the paper. The newsagents are to be visited to see if they are displaying papers and posters. Will members please co-operate in this by interviewing their newsagents and tradespeople? We shall press the sale by special open-air meetings, and get a band of women to chalk "Read VOTES FOR WOMEN, 1d. weekly," on all the pavements. The shop-window will be devoted to a display of the paper and posters, and we hope numbers of women will set out each day to sell the paper in the streets. We shall need the help of all our friends to carry out this programme. If they will call at the shop they will get instructions for canvassing, chalking, bill-distributing, or paper-selling. Miss Monro courageously made her debut as a speaker in Westbourne Grove on Tuesday, and spoke again at the At Home on Wednesday, when Miss Muriel Thompson also made an admirable first speech. LOUISE M. HATES.

Nottingham W.S.P.U.—The next meeting for members and friends is at Morley's Café, on Wednesday, March 17, at 7.30, when Mrs. Pettick, of Mansfield, has promised to speak on "Citizenship." The sewing meetings arranged so far are by Mrs. Shepherd, Cyprus Road, on March 12; Mrs. Goodliffe, 74, Musters Road, W. Bridgford, on March 18; and by Mrs. Evans, 48, Ebers Road, on March 22; and we hope that more members will be able to come and help. On Friday, March 19, we hope to make a large party for the theatre, and go in the colours of the Union, to see Forbes-Robertson, who has proved himself so generous a champion of the Woman's Cause. Will all who hope to come send for particulars to Mrs. Wilkinson, 1, Cromwell Road, Beeston, or to me? Miss Wallis, The Castle, has been good enough to act as Ticket Secretary for the public meeting on March 26, and all details as to sale of tickets can be obtained from her. Special contribution this week for the May Exhibition:—Mrs. Weekley, 5s. C. M. BURGESS.

A case is before the Scottish courts in which a husband asks to be found entitled to the custody of his wife, and that his daughter should be ordained to deliver her to him. The wife is sixty-nine years of age and bedridden. Nothing, he says, disturbed their domestic peace until, on January 23, a daughter took her away and has since opposed her return. The wife, on her side, states that she is now confined to bed and requires constant care and attention. The daughter's attention was objected to by the husband, and it was by the wife's own wish that she was removed. She desires to remain with her daughter, to whom she is greatly attached, and who, with another daughter, gives her the attention she requires. Though willing to see her husband at any time, she submits that in the circumstances his petition should be refused.

VOTES FOR WOMEN IN BRUGES.

Mrs. Burman, one of the Vice-Presidents of the Birmingham W.S.P.U., addressed a meeting in the Halle de Paris, Bruges, on February 26. The chair was taken by Miss Martin, and Mrs. Paulus, Miss Simpson, Miss Wilson (member of the Conservative League for Woman Suffrage), and Mr. G. S. Evans Williams also spoke. Many "Antis" were present. The proceedings were most harmonious throughout, and Mr. Simpson (formerly M.P. for Radnor Boroughs) gave a donation of 20 francs to the W.S.P.U. A full report of the meeting, which evidently created a very favourable impression, appeared in *The Continental Review* for March 9.

Overheard at a Votes for Women debate, Kersaal, Manchester:—
"It's astonishing what influence these women (Militant Suffragists) have had over men."

"Yes; I think it's because they admire their courage."

R. ROBINSON.

Millinery.

MISS RUSSELL,

14, HARVARD COURT,

HAMPSTEAD.

HATS MADE, TRIMMED, AND RE-MODELLED BY
EXPERT MILLINER.

Services can be engaged to visit ladies' houses by the hour.

COMFORTABLE VEGETARIAN AND FRUITARIAN HOME,
for Ladies or Gentlemen.

Mrs. Wickham, 10, Glentworth Road,

Redland, Bristol.

MRS. PANKHURST AT EDINBURGH.

One of the most enthusiastic meetings yet held in any part of the country, and notably in Scotland, was that at the Synod Hall, Edinburgh, on Friday, when Mrs. Pankhurst was the speaker. The impression made locally was immense. Among the large audience were many electors, who, having registered their votes during the day, came to hear more about the woman's question. The hall was crowded, and numbers were turned away. A few students who came to rag became quiet and interested, and the few interruptions only served to enable the speaker to score some of her best points. Thanks to the kind interest of Miss Lees the platform was occupied by an orchestra of eighty performers, generously lent and conducted by Miss Somervill, which contributed largely to the success of the evening. Mrs. Ivory made a very earnest and convincing appeal from the chair for a fair hearing, and Mrs. Pankhurst, in a brilliant speech lasting for an hour and twenty minutes, succeeded in completely gaining the enthusiastic sympathy of her audience for the militant tactics pursued by the Union, after which Mrs. Clarke was able to give a message from Mrs. Pethick Lawrence herself. Over £100 was taken in ticket money, and more than £80 in collection and promises. The donations and promises (to go to the Self-denial Fund) were as follows:—Mr. and Mrs. Ivory, £25; Miss Meltiver, £10; Miss Barbara Ayrtton, £10; Mrs. Maxtone-Graham, £1; Miss Login, £1; Miss Greenless, £1; Mrs. White, £1; A Working Woman, £1; Miss Wunderlich, 5s.; Mrs. Charlton, 2s. 6d. Miss Scott Moncrieff promised to give 1d. for each of the 400 prisoners three times a year till we get the vote. This works out at £5 per annum. Later on Mrs. Robertson brought a donation of £1, and also 2s. 6d. from her boys, Ronald and Gerald, who had saved it by going without their skating in Self-denial week. Much of the success of the meeting was owing to the good work of the stewards, under the management of Miss Eason Maule, aided by Mrs. Craster, and Mr. Eason of the Men's League.

QUESTIONS IN THE HOUSE.

Mr. H. Law (Donegal, W., Nat.) asked the Secretary of State for the Home Department on March 3 whether any special instructions were issued to the police on duty at the entrances to the Houses of Parliament on the evenings of February 18 and 24 as to the admission or otherwise of any persons; and, if so, what the instructions were.

Mr. Gladstone (Leeds, W.): No special orders were given to the police on duty at the entrance to the Houses of Parliament on either the 18th or the 24th. The Serjeant-at-Arms informs me that he reminded the inspector in charge of the necessity of observing the Sessional Order, which lays down that the passages through the streets are to be kept free and open, that no obstruction is to be permitted to hinder the passage of members to and from this House, and that no disorder is to be allowed in Westminster Hall or in the passages leading to this House, and that there is to be no annoyance therein or thereabouts.

Mr. H. Law wished to know whether the right hon. gentleman had observed the evidence of a police-constable, in a case arising on the 24th, who, when asked the grounds of a certain arrest, stated that the lady was wearing the colours of the Women's Social and Political Union. Was that done under instructions; and, if so, would the right hon. gentleman say where this colour bar—(laughter)—was to stop?

Mr. Gladstone promised the hon. member that, if he would put down his question, he would do his best to give the information asked for.

Mr. H. Law asked the Home Secretary whether he had examined the evidence in the cases of Mrs. Despard and others tried at Bow Street on the 26th ult; whether he was satisfied that no violence was used by any of the defendants; whether the offence committed was purely technical; and whether, under all the circumstances, he would advise the Crown to exercise its prerogative.

Mr. Gladstone: There was no evidence that the ladies referred to had used actual violence, but there was distinct evidence that they had been guilty of the offences with which they were charged—namely, obstructing the police in the execution of their duty—and I regret that I see no reason which would justify me in advising interference with the decision of the learned magistrate. I may, however, inform my hon. friend that on medical grounds I have ordered the discharge of Mrs. Despard this afternoon.

Mr. Lupton (Lincolnshire, Sleaford, Min.): Has the right hon. gentleman been advised that the best way of securing order in the streets about this House is to refuse to all the ladies the honour of imprisonment? (Laughter.)

Mr. MacNeill asked the Secretary of State for the Home Department on March 4 whether his attention had been directed to the words of Mr. Cecil Chapman, metropolitan police magistrate, on February 18, that he was not inclined to preach the virtues of patience and contentment to women who had realised their just right to vote, and that everyone recognised the right of women to vote except the men who desired to keep them from political independence; and whether, having regard to this expression of opinion from a member of the Bench of magistrates who, in the discharge of their duties, have had to deal with cases arising out of the suffragist agitation, and the purely political character of the offences with which the ladies now undergoing imprisonment were charged, he would see his way to advise their removal from the second to the first class of misdemeanants.

Mr. Gladstone (Leeds, W.): I am informed, through the chief magistrate, that the remarks made by Mr. Chapman were absolutely and entirely dissociated from anything connected with what are known as militant methods. They were not misunderstood by the audience, but the report separated them from their context. As regards the last part of the question, I have nothing to add to my former answers on this subject.

Mr. Rees asked whether the magistrate mentioned had made the remarks attributed to him.

Mr. Gladstone said that he was informed by the chief magistrate that Mr. Chapman had said that without the original context a misleading character had been given to what he said. He thought himself that it was very undesirable that magistrates should make speeches on these subjects.

Mr. Dillon (Mayo, E., Nat.): Is the right hon. gentleman aware that if a magistrate in Ireland made such a speech he would be removed from the Bench?

No answer was given.

"A WHITE WOMAN."

Readers of VOTES FOR WOMEN will be interested to know that the following verses were sung by Miss Harriett Vernon at York recently as part of a song called "A White Woman," written by Leslie Race and George Prince. The song was very well received by the audience, who evidently admired the pluck shown by Miss Vernon in thus standing up for the Suffragettes:—

Some women I would really like to mention;
If I gave away their names the girls would cheer.
Still, one day, I think, we all will thank them,
Although their present methods may seem queer.
That women were the weaker sex the men made us believe;
We went on thinking that the men were right;
But now we have some women who may the past retrieve,
For the weak will show the stronger how to fight.

They are real white women through and through;
One's lately been in Parliament, that's true;
But, then, you must remember, she was not there as a member—
Without being elected she got through.
Wherever were the gentlemen in blue?
To stop her getting in they failed to do.
When the Suffragette went to prison,
They said in that division,
"She's a real white woman through and through!"

To a few women

Many English women stick to the ways their mothers taught them. But there are a few women who are always on the look-out for better ways of doing things. To those women we have something to say.

The Fels-Naptha Way is a better way of doing your washing.

All you need to do is to try it next washing day. If you are not satisfied, your grocer returns your money. You keep the soap. So there!

White clothes

Wet the clothes, and soap the soiled parts with Fels-Naptha soap. Roll each piece into a close roll, and place them all in a tub with enough water to cover them. Soak for thirty minutes. Then rub in the same water; rub a little in the rinsing water; rinse in the usual way. That's all!

Fels-Naptha

The soap with a Way of its own.

TREASURER'S NOTE.

Self-denial Week is over, and the returns from members in all parts of the country show how much interest has been aroused, and how keenly members have worked in order to put aside a great sum as a Campaign Fund.

Many women who are unable to contribute large amounts have put forward 5s. a week each during the imprisonment of Mrs. Lawrence. In Newcastle a special fund of 1s. a week is being raised while the prisoners are confined in Holloway. Many women have sent us jewellery, which has been sold for the Cause. Another friend has sent us a special piece of lace. Others have given money, which they have especially earned in various ways. A schoolboy sends a contribution "to show that all schoolboys are not narrow-minded."

Many members have filled in their collecting cards with considerable amounts, and others are coming in by every post. Will all those who have not sent in their cards, please do so as soon as possible, in order that the total amount may be tabulated before the end of next week, so as to be announced at the great meeting to be held at the Queen's Hall on Tuesday evening, March 23.

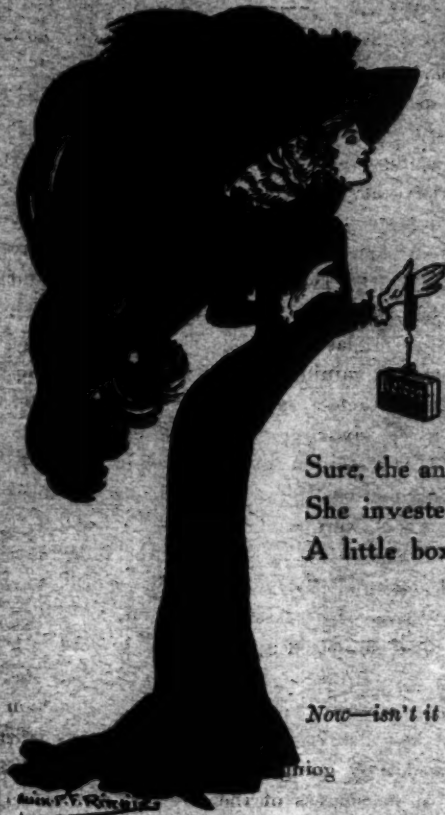
The special VOTES FOR WOMEN week, which has been undertaken to carry out Mrs. Lawrence's wish, will cost the Union about £150. I am anxious that this shall be met by special contributions, so that it shall not fall upon the general funds of the Union.

F. W. Pethick Lawrence.

Lectures and Debates.

At the annual debate of the Old Chelmsfordians' Association on March 10 the subject for discussion was "Fair Play for the Fair Sex: Some Arguments and Anecdotes." The headmaster (Mr. F. W. Rogers, M.A.) was in the chair, and the subject was introduced by the President, Mr. H. F. Pash, a member of the Men's League for Women's Suffrage.

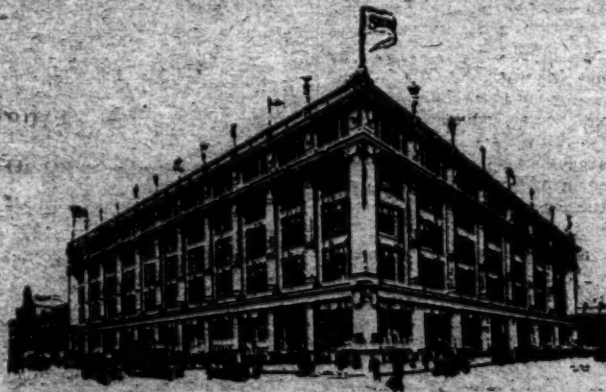
Two lectures were given at Swansea last week by Miss E. F. Phipps, B.A., on "Woman Suffrage." The following resolution was carried:—"That this meeting approves of the principle of Woman Suffrage, and of the militant tactics as being the best way to secure it." The meetings have roused considerable interest, and will, it is hoped, be followed by others.

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